

This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

HISTORY
OF
GRAND RAPIDS
AND
KENT COUNTY

VOL. II
BIOGRAPHICAL

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

D20 E41 Ia-3

To the Citizens Historical Association
these volumes are given in
memory of Rayner W. Butterfield

Grand Rapids Mich
March 5 1936

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

History of

GRAND RAPIDS
and
KENT COUNTY
MICHIGAN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THEIR PROGRESS FROM FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

ERNEST B. FISHER, EDITOR

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II

CHICAGO:
ROBERT O. LAW COMPANY
1918

THIS IS THE PROPERTY OF
Citizens Historical Association
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BLDG.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Preface

After more than a year of continuous and painstaking effort on the part of a considerable corps of workers, the publishers of these volumes on Kent County and Grand Rapids, present them to those for whom they were prepared in the belief that they will be found more than was promised. In their preparation accuracy has been kept more in mind than ornate diction. It was not intended to go into all the stories and traditions which hang about the dawn of white settlement in the Grand River Valley, but it was rather the plan to supplement former publications so that a searcher in the archives might find their story consistently connected down to the present year.

In collaboration with Mr. Ernest B. Fisher, who has acted as our guide and mentor in all this work, we feel that a worthy and reliable result has been achieved. His long residence in Grand Rapids and his activities in many public affairs have qualified him for editor in all things relating to the last half century in this thriving metropolis of Western Michigan.

And in addition we have had the assistance of an excellent corps of advisory editors, each selected because of his knowledge of the subject matter dwelt upon in the department given over to his supervision. The chapter devoted to the "Furniture Industry" was contributed by Mr. William Widdicomb, who has spent a more than ordinarily active life in that important branch of the Valley City's activities, and we feel that a better selection could not have been made. Clay H. Hollister has literally "grown up" in the banking business and there is perhaps no man in Michigan more familiar than he is with the history of financial affairs in general and of Grand Rapids in particular. Mr. Hollister acted as our advisory editor for the chapter on "Banking and Finance." Wilder D. Stevens, of the firm of Foster, Stevens & Company, gave us the benefit of his long experience in the mercantile life of Grand Rapids by reviewing the chapter on "Retail Industry," and Jacob Kleinhans and Eugene Boise performed similar service, respectively, on the chapters, "Courts and Lawyers" and the "Medical Profession." The high standing of these men in their professions is a guarantee of the excellence of any work they undertake.

THE PUBLISHERS.

Hosted by Google

Index —Volume I

A

Abel, Julius C., 145, 295.
Ada township, 219.
Ada village, 223.
Adams, Edgar J., 359.
Addison, Thomas, 242.
Adsit, Allen C., 470.
Alaska village, 255.
Albert, George, 275.
Albright, Joseph, 429.
Aldrich, Moses V., 171.
Algoma township, 300.
Alger, Russell A., 74.
Allen, George W., 138, 353.
Allen, H. H., 100, 245.
Allen, Nathan P., 469.
Allen, Sterling W., 423.
Allen, Wright C., 250.
Almy, John, 74, 152, 351.
Almy, Mrs. John, 152.
Alpine township, 271.
Alto, 566.
Alpine village, 272.
Andrus, Wesley P., 347.
Angell, Crawford, 175.
Archaean rocks, 18.
Arson, arrest for, 137.
Art, 563.
Atwater, Luman R., 95.
Authors and their works, 520-527.
Averill, Hiram N., 470.
Ayer, Frank M., 473.
Aylesworth, Wm. H., 432.

B

Babcock, Charles P., 456.
Bailey, Francis, 60, 141.
Bailey, Sluman S., 250, 456.
Bakery, first, 124.
Baldwin, Simeon L., 356.
Ballard, Rev. James, 126, 246, 299, 377.
Ballard, Stephen H., 451.
Ball, Byron D., 347, 410, 450.
Ball, Daniel, 127, 161, 211.
Ball, Daniel & Co., 477.
Ball, John, 85, 93, 94, 352.
Ball, John, first trip, 88.
Ball, Lucy, 93, 94.
Ball, Mrs. John, 132.
Ball, Samuel B., 127, 161.
Bank, first in county, 477.
Banking and finance, 474.
Band, first, 127.
Baraga, Father Frederic, 61.
Bar associations, 473.
Barber, O. B., 254.
Bar, members of, 457.
Barker, Sylvester W., 472.
Barnard, Edmund M., 349.
Barney, James M., 217.
Barns, Ebenezer W., 125.
Barns, Jacob, 83, 365.
Bar of 1836, 457.
Barr, Robert M., 145.
Barth, Louis, 432.
Baxter, Albert, 94, 130, 510.
Baxter, Joseph B., 125.
Baxter, Joseph H., 98.
Baxter, Joseph J., 160, 249.
Baxter, Leonard G., 153.
Bear Creek, 259.
Becker, Philip, 241.
Beckwith, Wm. G., 365.
Beer, first brewer, 84.
Beers, Philo, 353.
Bell, Digby V., 342.
Belmont, 227.
Bement, Leonard, 166.
Benjamin, Wm. C., 317.
Bentum, Jacob, 427.
Berkey, Julius, 489.
Berkey, William A., 489.
Berridge, John, 321.
Best, Leonidas E., 431.
Bidwell, George, 522.
Birch, Adelbert, 328.
Birth, first white, 54, 70, 156.
Bishop, John, 258.
Blacksmith, first, 67.
Blain, Joseph, 282.
Blain, Wilmot H., 283.
Blair, James, 461.
Blair, Jonathan, 237.
Blakely, W. I., 95.
Bliss, Doctor W., 423.
Bliss, Zenas E., 428.
Blumrich, Wenzel, 422.
Boat builders, early, 101.
Bodle, Arthur T., 440.
Boise, Eugene, 429.
Bookstores, 501.
Boom Days, 94.
Boat, Teunis A., 434.
Bostwick, E. B., 97, 298.
Bostwick Mills, 249.
Botsford, A. B., 439.
Boundary line, international, 24.
Bowne township, 306.
Boynton, Jerry, 214.
Boynton, Nathan, 90.
Boynton, William, 214.
Bradfield, Thomas D., 431.
Brady, John, 426.
Bremer, Henry, 362.
Brewer, Lyman A., 424.
Brick building, first, 161.
Brick-making, 93.
Bridegroom, first, 70.
Bridge, 84.
Bridge, first built, 161.
Bridge, first lattice, 82.
Bridge, Henry P., 345.
Briggs, Edward L., 356.
Briggs, George G., 355.
Brigham, Homer C., 440.
Briggs park, 194.
British troops at Detroit, 24.
Britton, Roswell, 351.
Brown, James H., 132.
Brown, Norris J., 472.
Brown, William H., 252.
Brownell, Thaddeus O., 229.
Brownsville, 255.
Buck Creek, 293.
Buddington & Turnham, 490.
Buell, Marcus, 256.
Buena Vista, 259.
Bullen, Ernest L., 472.
Bundy, McGeorge, 468.
Burchville village, 304.
Burfoot, Edmund, 359.
Burlingame, Edwin A., 451.
Burnett, David, 84, 162.
Burns, David E., 350.
Burton, Barney, 70, 91, 144.
Burton, Josiah, 144.
Burton, Lewis, 156.
Burton, Mrs. Barney, 247.
Business in 1837, 497.
Butler, Samuel F., 98.
Butterworth Hospital, 196
Butterworth, Richard E., 239.
Butts, Louisa M., 439.
Byrne, William, 264.
Byron Center, 566.
Byron Center Bank, 485.
Byron township, 90, 212.

C

Cabinet-maker, first, 487.
Caledonia Bank, 485.
Caledonia township, 251.
Caledonia village, 255.
Calvin College, 420.
Cambrian age, 18.
Campaign of 1832, 333.
Campaign of 1848, 336.
Campaign of 1852, 337.
Campau, Antoine, 145.
Campau, Edward, 128, 254
Campau, Louis, 59, 140. 141, 142, 143, 371, 496.
Canal building, 131.
Canal, first in Michigan, 73.
Canal, first movement, 71.
Cannonsburg village, 259.
Cannon township, 256.
Carbert, Joseph A., 434.
Carboniferous age, 18.
Carey Mission, 44.
Carmell, Therese, 156.
Carter, Charles B., 292.
Cascade, 278, 279.
Cascade township, 275.
Casnovia, 323.
Cass, Lewis, 337.
Catholic history, 372.
Catholic mission, 60.
Catholics, French, 60.
Catlin, Herbert W., 433.
Caukin, Volney W., 353.
Calvary Baptist Church, 370.
Cedar Springs village, 327.
Cemeteries, 205.
Centennial Exposition, 557.
Cessions of territory, 28, 29.
Chairmaking, first, 81.
Champlin, John W., 459.
Champlin, Stephen G., 450.
Chandler, Charles, 467.
Chapel, Gurden, 222.
Chapman, Leman H., 457.

Hosted by Google

Charitable institutions, 196.
Charities, organized, 195.
Charity, first meeting, 195.
Charter, city, summary, 169.
Charter commission, 177.
Chase, Amos, 222.
Chateau Thierry, battle, 551.
Chauncey village, 259.
Child's Mills, 227.
Chipman, Oscar H., 423.
Chipman, Walter, 305.
Church affairs, early, 92.
Church, first erected, 160.
Church history, 368-402.
Chubb, Jonathan F., 151, 295.
Church, Fred S., 563.
Church, Thomas B., 353, 448, 457.
Cincinnati shale, 18.
Circuit Court Commissions, list of, 453.
Citizens' Telephone Co., 557.
City Directory, first, 490.
City Hall, 189.
City waterworks, 186.
Civil War casualties, 545.
Civil War period, 529.
Chairs, first made, 93.
Clark, Alexander, 281, 245.
Clark, Frederick S., 361.
Clark, James, 225.
Clark, Merrills H., 507, 508.
Clarke, William, 433.
Clay, Samuel D., 452.
Clearing House Association, 486.
Close, Converse, 263.
Coffinbury, Wright L., 130.
Coggeshall, George, 163.
Coit park, 193.
Coldbrook church, 392.
Coldbrook, valley of, 148.
Columbian Exposition, 556.
Commercial Savings Bank, 484.
Commission government, 178.
Comstock, 227.
Comstock, Charles C., 344.
Comstock Riverside park, 194.
Congress lands, 37.
Congressmen, list of, 343.
Constant, Pierre, 496.
Constitution of 1850, 338.
Converse, J. W., 559.
Cook, Lewis, 276.
Cook, Arson, 125, 281.
County officers, first voted for, 73.
County seat located, 66.
Court, first, 159.
Courthouse, first, 123.
Courtland township, 240.
Courts, Circuit, 443.
Court, Supreme, 442.
Courts and lawyers, 442.
Covell, Leonard, 96.
Cowles, Shepard B., 330.
Cramond, Phoebe, 85.
Cramton, Alanson, 153.
Crane, Albert, 470.
Crosby, Moreau S., 341.
Crumback, James T., 284.
Cuming, Francis, 76, 379.
Curtiss, John L., 175, 348.

D

Dales, Oscar L., 435.
Danhof, James J., 471.
Daniels, Anson J., 408.
Dansville, 290.
Danton, Joseph, 236.
Dapper, Emil A., 462.
Daughters of the Revolution, 562.
Davidson, Wm. C., 98.
Davies, Albert W., 260.
Davies, Benjamin, 260.
Davis, Ebenezer, 82, 240, 299.
Davis, Ezekiel W., 209.
Davis, Horace W., 82.
Davis, Isaac D., 250.
Davis, John, 93.
Dean, Harry, 96.
Dean, John J., 327.
Deam, Alexander, 241.
DeCamp, Wm. H., 424.
Denison, Henry C., 280.
Dennis Ave. church, 394.
De Puy, Linas, 427.
Dexter Colony, 65.
Dexter, Samuel, 64, 66.
Dikeman, Aaron, 95, 362.
Disbrow, Ernest D., 435.
Dockeray, James, 354.
Doran, Peter, 348.
Drew, Walter W., 472.
Drug business, 498.
Drugstore, first, 497.
Drury, Horton H., 465.
Dutton, 566.

E

Earle, Bessie, 436.
Earle, Nathaniel A., 357.
Easterby, James, 291.
East Grand Rapids, 212.
Eaton, Harry, 85, 96, 238, 455.
Edgerton village, 304.
Edie, James O., 430.
Educational development, 402.
Edwards, Eliphalet G., 435.
Eggleston, Ebenezer S., 355, 449, 458.
Eldridge, Albert D., 320.
Election, first, 69, 122, 150, 165, 332.
Election statistics, 339.
Ellis, George E., 485.
Ellis, John, 439.
Ellsworth Avenue park, 195.
Epidemics, 441.
Erie Canal, 64.
Essex, county of, 24.
Evans, 566.
Everett, Franklin, 129.

F

Failing, John F., 433.
Fair, agricultural, 136.
Fairchild, Asel B., 327.
Fallas, J. Wesley, 230.
Fallass, Henry B., 465.
Fallassburg village, 232.
Farmer, first, 68.
Feakins, Edward, 297.
Federal Building, 191.
Felker, Henry J., 465.
Ferry, Asa P., 355.
Financial bubbles, 476.
—Troubles, 335.
Fingleton, Patrick, 222.
Finney, Noble H., 99.
FIRES
—Bridge Street house, 198.
—Day of, 200.
—Eagle Hotel, 199.
—Early, 134, 137.
—Houseman Block, 200.
—Luce Block, 201.
—Paper Box Co., 201.
—Powers' Opera House, 200.
Fire Companies, early, 199.
Fire engine, first, 160.
Fisk, John W., 210.
Fitch, Norton, 275, 358.
Fitzgerald, John C., 464.
Fletcher, Niram A., 357, 469.
Flood of 1838, 123.
—of 1849, 133.
Foote, Thaddeus, 450.
Ford, Melbourne H., 344.
Foresters, Order of, 204.
Foster, Wilder D., 125, 159, 343.
Fourth of July celebrations, 101, 146.
Fox, John M., 96, 171, 230, 365.
Fox, Philip W., 230.
French and Indian War, 22.
French traders, 22, 55.
Friant, Cornelius, 225.
Friant, James, 91.
Friend, John, 99.
Fruit growing, 293.
Fuller, E. P. and S. L., 78.
Fuller, Samuel L., 82.
Fuller, William D., 464.
Fulton Street Cemetery, 205.
Funeral, first, 74.
Furniture industry, 487.
Furniture makers, first, 101.

G

Gaines township, 280.
G. A. R., 561.
Gardener, first landscape, 83.
Garfield, Samuel M., 355.
Garlock, Alfred, 422.
Gay, George W., 494.
Genia, Henry, 128.
Geology, 18.
German settlers, first, 127.
Gibraltar, 207.
Gilbert, Daniel J., 314.
Gilbert, David J., 314.
Gilbert, Francis B., 127.
Gilbert lake, 326.
Gilbert, Thomas D., 75, 101, 342, 406.
Giles, Richard, 263.
Gill, Frank H., 358.
Gillespie, George D., 380.
Glacial period, 19.
Godfrey, Newcomb, 231.
Godfroy, John F., 155.
Godfroy, John R., 95.
Godfroy, Richard, 145.
Godfroy, William H., 153.
Godwin, G. Chase, 460.
Godwin, Wm. R. 151, 294.
Gordon, Alphonso E., 506.
Goss, Dwight, 455.
Government, territorial, 32.
Gould, John T., 367.
Graham, Robert D., 556.
GRAND RAPIDS
—as a city, 163.
—boundaries, 166.
—City, 134, 140.

Hosted by Google

—Charter, 167.
—in 1837, 93.
—present limits, 179.
—settlement, 143.
—village, 102, 122.
—village platted, 63.
—ward divisions, 167.
Grand Rapids township, 207.
Grand River, 20, 209, 224.
Grand River Valley, 22.
Grandville, founded, 90.
Grandville village, 297.
Granger, Orley C., 472.
Granger, Sylvester, 84, 458.
Grattan Center, 265.
Grattan township, 17, 261.
Graves, Schuyler C., 434.
Gray, George, 459.
Gray, Judah, 131.
Great Britain, intrigues of, 25.
Great Lakes, 19, 20.
Green, Henry, 264.
Green, Hezekiah, 81, 84.
Green, Mary, 81.
Greene, David M., 436.
Greenville treaty, 30.
Greenwood Cemetery, 206
Griggs, Geo. W., 125.
Griswold, Augustus D., 354, 461.
Griswold, Joseph B., 429.
Grove, J. F., 425.
Grove, William E., 460.
Guild, Emily, 73.
Guild family, 66, 207.
Guild, Joel, 65, 207.
—Letter of, 66.
Gypsum, 556.

H

Haggerty, William H., 469.
Haldane, William, 81, 487.
Hardware business, 499.
Harlan, Benjamin A., 447.
Harrington, John, 237.
Harris, Israel Victor, 82.
Harris, Silas G., 82.
Hart, Morris, 311.
Hatch, Matthew B., 329.
Hathaway, Charles W., 82.
Hathaway, Nehemiah, 82
Harvard, 313.
Hazlewood, Arthur, 428.
Headley, John T., 223.
Hebard, Charles E., 432.
Hebard, Ezra A., 240, 427.
Helsel, Henry, 302.
Hempel, Charles J., 439.
Henderson, Charles L., 422.
Hendrick, William, 283.
Henry, William G., 74, 164, 211.
Henshaw, Horace, 280.
Higginson, Francis J., 211.
High schools, 410.
Hill, Nicholas R., 316, 355.
Hilton, Robert, 82, 235.
Hine, Demas, 258.
Hine, James W., 348.
Hine, Milton B., 348.
Hinsdill, Hiram, 151, 362.
Hinsdill, Myron, 74.
Hinsdill, Stephen, 246.
Hoag, A. R., 231.
Hoag, Frank L., 440.
Hodenpyl woods, 565.
Hodges, Sylvester, 229.
Hodenpyl, Anton G., 565.
Hogadone, John, 236.
Hogadone, Henry C., 240.
Holcomb, John W., 465.
Holcomb, Martin A., 310.
Holden, E. G. D., 341, 450, 478.
Holden, Josiah R., 216.
Holland colony, 131, 133.
Holland immigration, 551
Hollister, John H., 423.
Holloway, Samuel, 60, 140.
Holmes, Clyde J., 472.
Holmes, Frank G., 465.
Holmes, Glenn W., 472.
Holmes, John T., 98, 449.
Holt, Charles H., 432.
Holt, Henry, 280.
Homeopathic Med. Soc., 441.
Homeopathy, 438.
Horticulturist, first, 85.
Horticulture, 556.
Hosken, Joseph B., 430.
Hospitals, 195.
Hotel, Eagle, 69.
Hotels, early, 69, 93, 155.
Hotelkeeper, first, 153.
House, first brick, 81.
—First frame, 66.
Houseman, Julius, 344.
Houseman, Maurice M., 468.
Howard, Robert, 259.
Howland, Simeon, 84.
Hoyle, George, 319.
Hoyt, Wilbur F., 435.
Hughes, David D., 463.
Hunt, Alfred H., 473.
Hunt, De Forest, 439.
Hunting, Isaac, 243.
Hunt, Leonard H., 357.
Hunt, Simeon, 366.
Hurd, Everett, 251.
Hutchins, Allen, 87.
Hyde, Wesley W., 466.
Hydraulic Company, 184.

I

Illinois, county of, 23.
Immigration, obstacles to, 35.
Indiana, territory of, 33.
INDIANS
—Burial ground, 205.
—Claims of, 29.
—Council at Fort Harmar, 25.
—Council of 1786, 25.
—Fur trade, 25.
—Iroquois, 23.
—Leaving of, 122.
—Ottawas, 23.
Industrial development, 563.
Industries, early, 93.
Infirmary, county, 249.
Irish, pioneers, 90.
Isle Royal, 20.
Ives, H. H., 95.

J

Jackson, Andrew, 334.
Jamison, Julius M., 349.
Jay's treaty, 31.
Jennison, Hiram, 70, 294.
Jenison, Lucius, 81, 294.
Jenison, Luman, 81, 294.
Jewell, Edward, 354.
Jewell, Harry D., 447.
Jewell, Oliver P., 327.
Johnson, Barton, 241.
Johnson, Cornelius A., 436.
Johnson, Edgar R., 280.
Johnson, Eli, 99.
Johnson, George K., 425.
Johnson, James C., 309.
Johnson, Sabin, 242.
Johnson, Simeon M., 96, 448, 507.
Johnson, Welcome W., 356.
Johnson, William S., 261.
Johnston, Andrew W., 471.
Jones, Edward H., 315.
Jones, Cyrus, 296.
Jones, Thomas, 377.
Journalism, 504.
Judaism, 397.
Judd, George E., 358.
Judges, Circuit, 445.
Judge of Probate, first, 446.
Judkins, J. Byron, 471.
Judson, Edla, 215.
Judson, Washington, 219.
Jurisdiction, early, 22.

K

Kawiquashcum, murder of, 126.
Kelley, Charles, 282.
Kellogg, Francis W., 343.
Kellogg, Harmon, 215.
Kellogg, Orson C., 97.
Kellogg, Truman, 95.
Kendall, F. M., 410.
Kendall, George, 131.
Kendall, Henry D., 431.
Kennedy, Joseph E., 256.
Kent, Asahel, 253.
Kent City, village, 322.
Kent county boundaries, 64.
—Created, 37.
—Organized, 38, 91, 159, 444.
Kent Co. Medical Society, 438.
Kent township, 207.
—Organized, 69.
Kent village, 102.
—Platted, 64.
Killean, John, 176, 358.
King, Rufus, on Indian treaties, 30.
Kingin, James, 242.
Kingsbury, Solomon O., 354.
Kingsley, Willard A., 462.
Kirkland, John, 96, 248.
Klenk, John F., 275.
Knights of Pythias, 204.
Koch, Peter G., 419.
Konkle, Horace, 228.
Kutts, Frank F., 451.

L

Labor matters, 179, 180.
Ladies' Literary Club, 413, 560.
Ladner, Frank, 359.
Laframboise, Madame, 56
LaGrave Ave. church, 393.
Lake Saginaw, 20.
Lambertson, Jacob, 329.
Lamoreaux, Isaac F., 456.
Land disputes, 156.
—First entry, 63.
—Grants, 39.
—Title to, 23.
"Land-grabbing," 31.
Land office affairs, 36, 87.
Langdon, Samuel, 250.
Laphamville, 228, 304.
Lapham, Smith, 301.
Latourette, David L., 478.

Hosted by Google

Laubenstein, Daniel A., 428.
Law library, 474.
Lawyer, first, 145.
Lawrence, O. W. C., 128.
Ledyard & Aldrich, 478.
Lee, Edmund, 292.
Leffingwell, Christopher W., 458.
Lennan, Edward, 276.
Levake, W. S., 96.
Lewis, "Yankee," 67.
Lime-kiln, first, 71.
Limestone, first use, 71.
Lincoln lake, 331.
Lincoln Lake village, 313.
Lincoln, Luther, 68, 151, 288, 294, 329.
Lincoln, Dr. W. B., 66.
Lisbon village, 270.
Literature, 520.
Locher, H. E., 431.
Loomis, Robert B., 349.
Lowell, Indian village, 90.
—township, 286.
—village, 290.
Lumber industry, 85, 124, 331.
Lupinski, Hugo, 435.
Lyceum, established, 124.
Lyman, James, 153, 497.
—Dwight, 95, 153, 497.
Lyon, Lucius, 62, 64, 71, 104, 105, 115, 387, 556.
Lyon, Lucretia, 127.
Lyon, Morgan, 231.
Lyon, Truman H., 127, 345.

M

Madison, Luther K., 266.
Malcolm, James D., 470.
Mann, Charles M., 244.
Marion, Joseph, 153.
Marl bed, 312.
Marsac, Daniel, 60.
Marsac, Emily, 60.
Marsac, Rene, 59.
Marsh, Edward S., 95.
Marsh, Frederick A., 277.
Martin, George, 84, 445.
Maryland, declaration of, 28.
Mason, Salsbury, 266.
Mason, Stevens T., 63, 93.
Masonic bodies, 202.
Massachusetts, claim of, 28.
Mathison, John, 160.
Matter, Elias, 490.
Maxim, Charles H., 430.
Mayor, first, 165.
Mayors, list of, 170.
McArthur, Giles, 310.
McBride, James E., 464.
McCarthy, Dennis, 262.
McCarthy, Wm., 264.
McCausland, W., 71.
McColl, John A., 435.
McConnell, John, 132.
McCoskry, Samuel H., 378.
McCoy, Isaac, 40, 43, 44, 45, 49, 51, 53.
McCrath, James, 209.
McCray, Gilbert M., 171.
McCray, James, 125, 297.
McGill, Charles W., 358.
McKee, James H., 458.
McKeel, Wm. H., 222.
McKenney, Elijah, 218.
McKenney, James K., 215.
McKnight, William F., 453.
McLean, Alexander, 232.
McLean, Peter, 221.
McNaughton, Daniel, 361.
McNaughton, Thomas H., 350.
McNeal, Byron, 218.
McPherson, James A., 429.
McVean, Daniel C., 362.
McWhorter, David, 427.
Medical profession, 421.
Medical societies, 437.
Merchants, early, 500.
Merriam, C. W., 551.
Methodism, history, 374.
Methodist mission, 74.
Michigan a State, 79.
Michigan basins, 18.
MICHIGAN TROOPS
—Artillery service, 545.
—Eighth infantry, 531.
—Fifth cavalry, 540.
—First Engineers, 535.
—Fourteenth infantry, 533.
—Fourth cavalry, 538.
—Second cavalry, 536.
—Sixth cavalry, 541.
—Tenth cavalry, 544.
—Third cavalry, 537.
—Third infantry, 529.
—Thirteenth infantry, 532.
—Twenty-first infantry, 534.
—Twenty-sixth infantry, 535.
Military companies, 528.
Military history, 527.
Millcreek, 227.
Miller, G. B., 427.
Miller, George, 224.
Miller, John S., 238.
Miller, Roland E., 436.
Milliner, first, 85.
Mills, early, 92, 101.
Mills, George M., 85.
Milner, Samuel G., 440.
Misner, Christopher, 231.
Modern Woodmen of America, 204.
Montgomery, Robert M., 467.
Moody, Lewis, 298.
Moore, Lovell, 83.
Moran, Louis, 68, 146.
Morman, William, 98.
Morris, Robert W., 126.
Morrison, Jefferson, 75, 103, 446.
Morrison, Walter B., 432.
Moseley, Wm. G., 95.
Mound builders, 17.
—Legend of, 52.
—Relics of, 20.
Mulhern, James, 433.
Municipal plant, 186.
Munro, Harry B., 236.
Murray, Dennis, 360.
Murray, Lyman, 347.
Myers, Wm. H., 243.

N

Nash, Jonathan E., 268.
Naysmith, Henry R., 180.
Nelson, James M., 85, 164.
Nelson township, 315.
Newspaper, first, 158.
—Chronology, 511-520.
—Eagle, 508.
—Herald, 515.
—Press, 518.
—Times, 505.
New York, claim of, 28.
Niagara limestone, 19.
Noonday, Indian chief, 49, 52, 60.
Norris, Lyman D., 343, 462.
North Mills, 227.
Nursery, first, 85.

O

Oakfield Center, 313.
Oakfield township, 310.
Oak Hill cemetery, 206.
O'Brien, Stephen, 237.
Odds and ends, 551.
Odd Fellows lodges, 203.
Officials, county, 340, 350, 360, 364.
Open Forum, 402.
Ordinance of 1787, 26, 33, 78.
Orton, Jesse F., 473.
Osborne, Noah, 60.
Osgood, Hiram, 448.

P

Page, Abel, 85, 124.
Page, Loren M., 83, 95, 488.
Painting, 563.
Palmerlee, Heman, 357.
Panic of 1837, 94, 158, 333, 334.
Pannel, Joseph, 84.
Paris township, 244.
Park and Boulevard association, 195.
Park board, 193.
Park, Leonore L., 473.
Park system, 191.
Parks, Beriah G., 330.
Parks, list of, 194.
Parrish, Isaac H., 461.
Parnell, 265.
Parsons, Wm. S., 250.
Patterson, Albert J., 433.
Patterson, Lucius, 458.
Pattison, George W., 505.
Patton, John, 340.
Paul, John, 350.
Payne, Jeremiah, 328.
Pearsall, Sherman M., 273.
Peirce, John W., 84.
Peirce, P. R. L., 127, 172, 347.
Perkins, Cyrus E., 447.
Perkins, Samuel F., 82, 165, 564.
Peterson, Reuben, 436.
Peterson, Simon P., 244.
Peterson, William, 311.
Pettibone, Knowlton S., 83.
Pettingill, Benjamin, 302.
Pettis, Edward, 221.
Philbrick, H. H., 127.
Phillips, Jerome E., 251.
Physician, first, 153, 421.
Physicians, women, 436.
Pickett, Albert L., 303.
Picric acid plant, 564.
Pictured rocks, 19.
Pierce, Byron M., 562.
Pike, Abram W., 160.
Penney, Joseph, 388.
Penwarden, Wm. F., 433.
Plainfield township, 223.
Plainfield village, 228.
Plank roads, 134, 135, 136.
Plaster deposits, 19.
—Mills, 112.
Platt, Alonzo, 421.
Platte, John, 273.
Politics, 332, 336.
Polke, William, 47.
—Attempt to kill, 50.
—Journal of, 50.
Pomology, 556.
Population, character of, 80.

Hosted by Google

—In 1836, 80.
—In 1837, 102.
—Present city, 179.
Porter, George B., 63.
Porter, John, 354.
Porter, Lewis, 346.
Post, George, 291.
Post, Jacob, 225.
Postmasters, list of, 190.
Postoffice, established, 64, 155.
—Locations, 190.
Potter, Joseph S., 69.
Powers, Mark M., 462.
Powers, Wm. H., 356.
Powers, Wm. T., 132.
Powell, Isaac P., 419.
Prairieville mission, 55.
Pre-glacial valleys, 19.
Prescott, Francis, 74.
Pressey, Austin J., 431.
Prince, Erie, 279.
Prindle, Clarence W., 356.
Probate Court, 446.
Proctor, William, 292.
Proctor, Henry B., 364.
Prosecuting Attorneys, list of, 448.
Province of Canada, 23.
Public library, 412.
Public museum, 17, 20, 414.
Public works, 183.
Pyle, Benjamin, 433.

R

Ransom, James W., 356.
Rathbone, Alfred D., 448.
Rathbun, Gouverneur B., 97.
Rathbun, Hugo B., 251.
Reed, Ezra, 70, 151, 209.
Reed, Lewis, 70.
Reed, Porter, 70, 151, 209.
Reed's Station, 566.
Reed, Thomas E., 211.
Reeves, Andrew J., 450.
Regents of University, 342.
Rensington, W. P., 309.
Retail industry, 495-504.
Railroads, 220, 553, 554.
Rice, Nathaniel, 366.
Richmond, William Almy, 81, 163, 345.
Richter, Henry J., 372.
Riggs, Jedediah, 221.
Riley, Henry H., paper of, 20.
Ringuette, John, 75.
Ringuette, Maxine, 75.
Roads, early, 124, 91, 102, 124.
Roberts, Amos, 166.
Roberts, Nathaniel P., 151.
Roberts, Noah P., 68.
Robinson, Munson, 326.
Robinson Rix, 57, 220, 345.
Robinson, Rodney, 229.
Rockford village, 228, 304
Rogers, Alexander, 231.
Rogers, Ansel, 325.
Rogers, Edwin G., 325.
Rogers, Jacob, 296.
Rogers, James A., 460.
Rogers, Justus C., 295.
Rood, Arthur R., 468.
Rood, Charles C., 131, 454
Rood, Zebulon, 257.
Rouge river, 91, 267, 323.
Rosenberg, Moses, 219.
Ross Station, 566.
Roys, John E., 326.
Roys, Myron, 295.
Rumsey, James A., 97.
Russell, Henry C., 320, 348.
Rust, William, 124.
Rutherford, Frances A., 428, 436.
Ryan, Will E., 470.
Ryerson, Martin, 68.

S

Saline formations, 19.
Salmon, Archibald, 97.
Salt industry, 556.
Sand Lake village, 319.
Sargeant, Edward E., 448.
Sargeant, James, 128.
Sargeant, N. O., 71, 153.
Sargeant, Thomas, 83, 128.
Saunders, Henry G., 426.
Sawmills, 64, 70.
Schenck, Jacob S., 222.
School chapter, 403-420.
Schools, early, 73, 74, 92.
Schouten, Roelof A., 433.
Scoville, B. S., 139.
Scribner, James, 85, 157, 509.
Segwum, 290.
Sessions, Rodney C., 283.
Settlement and Organization, 57.
Settler, early, 140, 149.
Sewerage system, 189.
Seymour, Henry, 346.
Shepard, Charles, 74, 153, 367.
Shingle mills, 313.
Shoemaker, first, 75.
Shoemaker, Nicholas, 299.
Shoemaker, Robert I., 160.
Shotwell, Walter S., 440.
Sibley, Aaron, 146.
Sibley, Willard, 146.
Sibley, Solomon, 33, 61.
Sinclair, Daniel S., 440.
Sinclair, Robert P., 447.
Sinclair, Malcolm C., 439.
Sizer, George, 74.
Skinner, Adolphus T, 366.
Skidmore, David M, 309.
Slater, Leonard, 53, 54.
Slater, Sarah Emily, 54.
Slavery in Michigan, 26.
Slayton, Russell, 265.
Slayton, Thomas J., 355.
Sliter, James, 151.
Smiley, Mitchell J., 464.
Smith, Amos Harford, 81, 365.
Smith, Canton, 95.
Smith Henry C, 85, 158, 353.
Smith, Henry S., 174.
Smith, Israel C., 95.
Smith, Jesse, 235.
Smith, John L., 93.
Smith, Obadiah, 326.
Smith, Reuben H., 361.
Smith, Riley, 317.
Smith, Sidney, 362.
Smith, Tory, 221.
Snyder, Leonard, 456.
Societies, fraternal, etc., 202.
Soil of Michigan, 19.
Soldiers' Home, 197.
Soldiers, memorial, 551.
Soldiers, reunion, 561.
Solon township, 324.
Sons of American Revolution, 562.
Spanish-American War, 548.
Sparta township, 267.
Sparta village, 269.
Speculations, 155.
Spencer, Ralph H., 436.
Spencer township, 328.
Spencer village, 331.
Spring, Jared S., 258.
Squire, Milan L., 324.
Stage routes, 136.
Stark, George P., 280, 348.
St. Cecelia Society, 561.
Steamboats, early, 124.
Steamboat, Governor Mason, 100.
Stebbins, Andrew J., 363.
Steele, Samuel H., 265.
Steel's Corners, 258.
Stegman, Frederick C., 244.
Stevens, Ransom H., 432.
Stewart, John R., 365.
Stewart, S. S., 85, 210.
Stinson, Horatio N., 305.
Stocking, Bilius, 70.
Stone, Henry, 96.
Stone, John W., 343.
Stoneburner, Leonard, 296.
Store, first general, 75.
Storey, Elmer G., 331.
Stout, A. D., 67.
Stout, David B., 317.
Strike, furniture, 182.
Strike, street car, 181.
Strong, Edwin B., 436.
Stroup, Henry, 329.
Stuart, William J., 452.
Sunday school, first, 81.
Supervisors, lists of, see township chapters.
Sweet, Edwin F., 177.
Sweet, Martin L., 131, 478.
Swensberg, C. G., 419.
Symes, John, 268.

T

Taber, Eleazer C., 237.
Taggart, Moses, 461.
Tailors, early, 101.
Tanner, first, 82.
Tatem, John H., 470.
Tax, first school, 73.
Taylor, Charles H., 83, 341, 506.
Tecumseh, Indian chief, 35.
Teeple, George, 277.
Teeple, Peter, 277.
Telephone, 557.
Temperance work, 124.
Thames, battle of, 35.
Thayer, George W., 173.
Thomas Mission, chapter 39.
—Removal, 54.
Thomas, James, 257.
Thomas, Jonathan, 90.
Thompson, Calvin, 243.
Thompson, Henry E., 454.
Thompson, Jonathan P., 507.
Thornton, Howard A., 471.
Tiffin, Edward, report of, 36.
Tindall, John N., 317.
Topography, 17.
Tarvner, Cassius B., 359.
Tarvner, Samuel S., 218.
Tracy, Philander, 83, 287.
Traditions, Indian, 55.
Train, Jarvis C., 357.

Hosted by Google

TREATIES
—of Chicago, 39.
—of 1821, 149.
—of 1836, 79, 150.
—of Fort Finney, 29.
—of Fort McIntosh, 29.
—of Fort Stanwix, 29.
—of Greenville, 26.
—of Paris, 23.
—of Saginaw, 59, 61.
—of 1783, 24.
—Jay's, 1794, 24.
Turner, Aaron B., 508.
Turner, Demetrius, 154.
Turner, Eliphalet, 67, 144, 208.
Turner, Isaac, 157, 452, 510.
Tustin, Josiah P., 380.
Tuttle, S. Porter, 41.
Tyrone township, 321.

U

Uhl, Edwin F., 466.
Ulrich, Madison J, 357.

V

Van Lew, Peter, 283.
Van Zandt, Jacob, 330.
VanZoeren, Jacob, J., 359
Verkerke, John A., 364, 455.
Verdier, John A. S., 362.
Vergennes township, 229.
Virginia, cession of territory, 26.
—Claims of, 23.
Viszocky, Andreas, 61.
Voorheis, Peter O., 463.

W

Wabasis lake, 312.
Wabasis township 311.
Wadsworth, Abraham S., 71.
Wagon works, first, 84.
Walker, Chas. I., 99, 159, 352.
Walker, Eliab, 231.
Walker, Jacob W., 233.
Walker township, 233.
Wallace, Henry M., 472.
Wanty, Emma Nicholas, 435.
Wanty, George P., 471.
Ward, Leonard A., 467.
Waring, Hart E., 380.
War meetings, 529.
War of 1812, 35.
Water power, 558.
Water-works system, 183
Watkins, Ervin C., 356.
Watkins, Jared, 263.
Watkins, Milton C., 346.
Watkins, Oliver I., 266.
Watson, Andrew, 100.
Watson, Edward, 433.
Wayne, county of, 31, 32.
Wayne, Gen. Anthony, 27
Weaver, Prentiss, 216.
Wedding, first, 70.
Weeks, John P., 264.
Wells, William J., 477.
Wells, Revilo, 478.
Westlake, Samuel, 238.
Weston, Isaac M., 175.
Wheeler, Josiah L., 98.
White, George H., 354, 454, 459.
White, Mrs. Marion, 76.
White, Samuel, 234.
White, Solomon, 100.
White, William H., 434.
Whitfield, Isaiah J., 439.
Whitney, Mindrus H., 420.
Whitneyville, 279.
Widdicomb, George, 489.
Wildberger, George H., 430.
Wilder, Horace, 297.
Williams, Henry R., 165.
Willson, James B., 454.
Wilson, Charles M., 469.
Wilson, Chester, 225.
Wilson, Stephen A., 74, 153, 360.
Wilson, William A., 434.
Winchester, E. W., 488.
Winchester, S. A., 488.
Winslow, Jason, 74.
Winsor, Darius, 66, 152.
Winsor, Eugene, 70.
Winsor, Jacob W., 67, 154.
Winsor, Zenas G., 66, 226.
Withey, Orson A., 68.
Withey, Solomon, 84, 93, 456.
Withey, Solomon L., 84, 346, 446.
Wolcott, Alfred W., 453.
Wolcott, Laurens W., 454.
Wood, George D., 266.
Wood, Prof. L. H., 19.
Wood, William, 427.
Woodward, Kendall, 83, 211.
Woodward, William, 62.
Woodworth, Wm. F., 244, 364.
Woolway, Christopher J., 430.
Wooster, David, 488.
Wooster, Samuel R., 426.
World War, 548.
—Roll of honor, 549.
Wright, Frederick W., 434.
Wright, Solomon, 100, 237.
Wylie, Henry H., 324.
Wylie, James R., 471.
Wyoming township, 293.

Y

Yeiter, John, 291.
Y. M. C. A., 401.
Young, George, 97, 210.
Young, Willis, 261.
Y. W. C. A., 402.

Illustrations—Volume I:

Fisher, Ernest B.—Frontispiece.
Original Sketch of Grand Rapids—1831, facing page 144.
View in 1872 of What Is Now Campau Square—facing page 163.
Scene at the Fire in July, 1873—facing page 198.
Old Stone Schoolhouse—facing page 402.

Index—Volume II

All Biographical Sketches in Volume II are arranged in alphabetical order.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Biographical

Fred M. Aldrich.—In the fertile agricultural county of Kent there are found many men who have passed their entire lives within the county's borders and have attained prosperity and standing. In this class, one worthy of mention for what he has accomplished, is Fred M. Aldrich, who is now carrying on farming operations on section 16, Bowne township, which has been his home for many years. In this township he has received his education, as well as his agricultural training, and here he has passed his entire career, winning straightforward success with honor and a strong place in the confidence of his fellow-citizens. Mr. Aldrich was born on his father's farm in Bowne township, May 10, 1865, a son of James and Alvira (Godfrey) Aldrich. His father, a native of Canada, came to Michigan as a lad of fourteen years, with his parents, the family settling in Kent county at a time when the greater part of the land was still virtually in its virgin state, and when he reached manhood secured property of his own and continued to be engaged in general farming throughout the balance of his career. Two years prior to his death he retired from active pursuits and moved to Grand Rapids, and in that city his death occurred. An industrious, progressive and intelligent farmer, he was for years a member of the local Grange and one of the first men of his locality to adopt new movements when found practicable. He was a factor in the movements which assisted his community in its civic growth and development and a stanch and uncompromising republican. By his first marriage, to Marie Godfrey, he had two children: Atha, deceased; and a son who died in infancy. Mr. Aldrich and his second wife, Alvira (Godfrey) Aldrich, had six children: Arabella May, of Grand Rapids; Lillie, who died in infancy; Frederick M.; Grace, of Grand Rapids; Augusta, wife of Charles Wright, of Greenville; and Milton, deceased. After attending the district schools of Bowne township, Fred M. Aldrich assisted his father on the home farm until attaining his majority, and for several years thereafter continued to work on the home place. Eventually he bought eighty acres from his father, later sold this and purchased forty acres, and to this has since added until he now has a quarter-section of some of the best land in the township. He has devoted his energies to general farming, in which he has met with well-merited success, and the new residence and modern, substantial buildings on his property both add to its attractiveness and make it more valuable. Mr. Aldrich is a popular member of the Grange and takes much interest in its work, while many of his ideas have been of material benefit to his fellow-members. He is a republican, having voted for that party's candidates and principles since the time he attained his majority, and has wielded some influence in his community, where he has served in various township offices, including those of treasurer, clerk and member of the board of school directors. In public, as in private life, he has discharged his duties in an entirely capable

Hosted by Google

manner and in a way that has held his fellow-citizens' respect. Mr. Aldrich was married, Dec. 29, 1891, to Ida May, daughter of Robert Hunter, a well known citizen of Ionia, Mich. Of this union there have been born four children: Warren J., assisting his father on the home farm, who is married and has one son, Earl Warren; and Howard H., F. Arlington and Marian E., all at home with their parents.

Leroy D. Allen.—In the fertile and productive agricultural district included within the borders of Gaines township is found the farm of LeRoy D. Allen, a property that has been held under the family name for nearly sixty-five years. This is one of the tracts that is representative of the kind of farms that have given the township prestige as an agricultural center, and under Mr. Allen's good management is proving a most valuable investment. LeRoy D. Allen has been a resident of Gaines township all his life, having been born on his present farm, Jan. 14, 1856, a son of William T. and Margaret (Brown) Allen. The family is traced back to England, was founded in this country long before the Revolutionary war, and is the same as that from which sprang Ethan Allen, the great American patriot. William T. Allen was born in New York City, where he was proprietor of a grocery, and when still a young man went to Ohio, where he was married, his wife also being a native of the Empire state, and engaged in farming. After several years, in 1853, he came to Kent county, Michigan, and purchased 200 acres of wild land in Gaines township, on which he first cleared a small plot and built a log house, and then settled down to the clearing and development of the remainder of his property. He became one of the prominent and influential men of his locality, the owner of a fine farm, with modern improvements, and a leading republican and devout member of the United Brethren church. He died at the age of seventy-five years, in 1893, having lived in retirement for some time previous to his demise. He and Mrs. Allen were the parents of the following children: Stephen, who is deceased; Cecelia, who is the widow of T. G. Houk; Julia, wife of James Benewa; LeRoy D.; William, a practicing physician of Grand Rapids; Marietta, wife of Frank Van Lew, of Raymond, Wash.; and Rose, wife of W. Woodham. LeRoy D. Allen attended the district schools of Gaines township and grew up on the home farm, on which he still makes his home. For several years he managed the property for his father, and after the elder man's death became its owner by purchasing the interests of the other heirs. He has confined his efforts to general farming, and in this industry has won merited success. Mr. Allen is a republican, and has served his township as clerk five years and as supervisor two years. He belongs to the United Brethren church, of which his family are also members. While working out his individual success, Mr. Allen has found the time and desire to further community interests, and worthy movements have never lacked his support. Mr. Allen was married first, Oct. 1, 1879, to Mary, daughter of Jacob Benewa, of Kent county, of French descent. Of this union there were born three children: Chester, a graduate of Oberlin college, and a well known educator of Kent county, residing on the home farm; Don, also a graduate of Oberlin college and of the Harvey (Ill.) School of Chemistry, and the father of three children—Thelma, Don, Jr., and

Hosted by Google

Mary—and Albert, who graduated from Oberlin college and is now engaged in teaching physical culture in Minnesota. Mr. Allen was again married, Jan. 10, 1900, when united with Mrs. Rachel (Benewa) Pincomb, sister of his first wife. They have one daughter, Luella, who resides with her parents.

Noah P. Allen.—Profitable farming in these modern days depends upon a number of essential things. The first consideration must be good soil; incidentally, the climate effects matters considerably; but, finally, the greatest factor of all is the farmer himself. Today the farmer must be a man not only of great industry but also of a comprehensive knowledge, and the more experience he can call to his aid the better chance has he of being able to make every inch of his domain return him a profit. Judging by the success that has attended his agricultural efforts, Noah P. Allen, one of Kent county's most respected citizens, is also one of this section's best farmers. Mr. Allen was born in Livingston county, New York, Oct. 22, 1852, a son of Samuel and Sabra (Blanding) Allen. His parents were natives of the Empire state, where Samuel Allen was a farmer, and came to Kent county in 1865, purchasing forty acres of uncleared land. Here they worked industriously to make a home for their family and continued to follow agricultural pursuits during the remainder of their long and useful lives. Both parents had energetic natures and were active in their labors until within a short time of their deaths, and their sterling qualities of character won them the universal respect of their fellow-townspeople. Their children were: Josephine, deceased; Noah P., of this notice; Mary, Francis, Hector and Meady. Noah P. Allen commenced his education in the public schools of New York and finished it in the rural district of Lowell township, Kent county, where he was brought as a lad of thirteen years. He was brought up to farming pursuits, working first with his father and later as a renter, and finally became a property owner when he purchased forty acres of land. This he cleared, improved and cultivated for some years, then added forty acres to his original purchase, and finally added the home place of forty acres, all of which he owns at this time. Mr. Allen has been industrious as a farmer, and has also added to his income by engaging in season in the threshing business, which he has followed with success for twenty-two years. He raises a good quality of stock, and his farm, fertile and well handled, produces all the grains and other farm produce natural to this section. His buildings are substantial and commodious and his improvements, appliances and machinery modern in character and kept in the best of shape. In regard to political affairs, Mr. Allen supports the republican party and its candidates. He has discharged his civic duties in an efficient and willing manner, and has been director of the school board and held other official township positions. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masons, belonging to the Blue lodge at Lowell. Mr. Allen was married, July 3, 1875, to Eva, daughter of Nathan and Rebecca (Crum) Blair, both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Allen have two children: Anna, who is the wife of William Murphy, of Traverse City, Mich., and has a daughter, Olive E., wife of M. J. Mackintosh of that city; and Edith Maude, wife of Claude Streeter, of Lowell township. Mrs. Allen was born, Feb. 17, 1853, at Ada, Mich., whither her parents, natives of New York, had come ten years previous to that time. Mr.

Hosted by Google

Blair was a farmer, who started with eighty acres of land, later accumulated several desirable and valuable farms, and at the time of his death was living retired at Lowell.

Gottlieb Althaus.—An impressive illustration of what may be accomplished within a score of years by industry, sobriety and persistent endeavor, is furnished in the career of Gottlieb Althaus since he established his home in Kent county, in 1889. Without aid from adventitious sources, and relying solely upon his own inherent energy, perseverence and sound judgment, he has built up a success that is highly creditable to himself and the community of which he is a worthy member. Mr. Althaus is a native of Switzerland, born June 28, 1870, a son of Christ and Mary Ann (Mosser) Althaus. His parents, who were also born in that country, came to the United States in 1890, and Christ Althaus is now living in comfortable retirement in Lowell township, where the mother died in 1900, in the faith of the Methodist Episcopal church. There were ten children in the family, as follows: Christ, who is engaged in farming in Lowell township; Mary, who died as the wife of Carl Roth; Rosetta, Gottlieb, Anna, wife of Christ Wittenberg, of Lowell township; Eliza, wife of Adam Clunens, of Belding, Mich.; Carl, of Louisville, Ky.; Ernest, of Vergennes township; Andrew, a resident of Calgary, Canada; and Frederick, who makes his home in the state of Florida. Gottlieb Althaus received his education in the public schools of his native land, where he was reared as a farmer, and was nineteen years of age when he came to the United States. After working out among the farmers of Lowell township for three years, he purchased ninety acres of land for the family home, and subsequently acquired eighty acres for himself, which he sold and afterward purchased his present valuable property in section 5. He has installed modern machinery, good equipment and substantial buildings, and his general farming operations are meeting with the kind of success that stamps him as one of the progressive men of his community, able and energetic, and capable of making the most of his opportunities. He is a republican, although he has not sought political position or favors, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Althaus also belongs. Mr. Althaus was married to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of John and Eliza Berry, natives of Switzerland, who came to this country in 1883, and both of whom are now deceased. Mr. Berry was a farmer by occupation. Mr. and Mrs. Althaus have no children of their own, but are rearing an adopted son, Joseph.

Julius Houseman Amberg.—Representing the young and enthusiastic professional element of Grand Rapids, Julius Houseman Amberg brought to the practice of his calling, in 1915, fine gifts of scholarship and an inherent ability that bids fair to carry him into the front rank of lawyers of this city ere many years have passed. He was born at Grand Rapids, Feb. 27, 1890, a son of David M. and Hattie (Houseman) Amberg, the former a native of Middleville, Ohio, and the latter of Grand Rapids. David M. Amberg came to this city as a young man of twenty years, in 1868, and here followed various business callings until becoming connected with the wholesale liquor industry. He continued to be engaged therein until his retirement, in 1916. There were four children in the family: Melvin, who died at the age of ten years; Sophie, who married Meyer S. May, of Grand

Hosted by Google

Rapids, and died Dec. 10, 1917; Hazel, wife of Henry M. Stern, of Rochester, N. Y.; and Julius H. Julius H. Amberg attended the Wealthy Street grammar school, and after his graduation from high school, in 1908, went to Colgate University, where he received the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1912. While attending that institution he established a brilliant record among his fellow-students, being editor-in-chief of the college weekly as well as of the college annual, leader of the debate team, and winner of the prizes for essays in Latin and English, and the prize for debating, in addition to which he was admitted to the exclusive senior year society of Skull and Scroll, an honorary fraternity, and graduated first in his class. He next entered Harvard Law School and there continued to take honors, being note editor of the Harvard Law Review, winning the Sears prize in both 1913 and 1914 and taking the Fay diploma in 1915 as a mark of his position as highest in the class. Graduated with his degree of Bachelor of Laws cum laude in that year, he returned to Grand Rapids and, Sept. 1, became a clerk in the office of Butterfield & Keeney, and on Oct. 15 was admitted to the bar. On Sept. 1, 1916, he was admitted to partnership in the firm, with which he has since practiced with ever-increasing success. He is one of Grand Rapids' most promising young attorneys, and has already made a name for himself as a successful practitioner. Mr. Amberg maintains an independent stand where politics are concerned, and his religious connection is with the Temple Emanuel. Fraternally, he belongs to Doric Lodge of Masons, the Acacia Masonic Harvard Chapter, the I. O. B. B. and the Delta Upsilon, Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Sigma Rho fraternities. He is popular in club life in the city, belonging to the Kent Country, Peninsular, Barristers', and Triangle clubs. He has interested himself actively, extensively and in a number of ways in movements which have made for the general welfare, and his labors have been productive of excellent results. As president of the Grand Rapids Anti-Tuberculosis Society, he has led in a determined attack upon the dreaded White Plague; in the Grand Rapids Red Cross chapter he has been an active and helpful factor, being a director, member of the executive board, secretary of the Civilian Relief committee, and chairman of the Speakers' committee during campaigns. He is also a member of the Social Welfare Association and a director in the Big Brother movement, is on the legislation committee of the Grand Rapids Bar association; and as chairman of the advisory council of the Federation of Social Agencies, has been intimately connected with that movement. For a period, in 1917, he was called to the Secretary of War's office for legal work in connection with labor disputes. Mr. Amberg was married, Oct. 10, 1916, to Miss Callie S., daughter of Eugene and Ella (Sutherland) Smith, of De Pere, Wis., and has a daughter, Mary Sutherland, born Oct. 10, 1917.

William C. Anderson.—Practically the entire life of William C. Anderson has been passed in the community in which is located his present farm, for while he was not born in Kent county he was still an infant when brought to Bowne township, and here his training, both educational and agricultural, was received. Through steadfast and industrious effort he has won his way to a fair and honorable success in material affairs, to a recognized standing among the farmers of his locality, and to a place in the confidence and respect of those

Hosted by Google

among whom his life has been passed. Mr. Anderson was born on a farm in Allegan county, Michigan, Dec. 24, 1860, a son of Joseph and Ann (Christy) Anderson. His father, a native of Ireland, was a youth of nineteen years when he decided to try for his fortune in the United States, and on his arrival settled in New York state, where he spent several years. He next came to the West, locating on a farm in Allegan county, Michigan, where he carried on operations with a fair measure of success for four years, and at the end of that period changed his place of residence to Kent county, where he took up land in Bowne township. This sixty-four-acre tract was still in its virgin form, and before he could settle down to farming Mr. Anderson was compelled to clear a plot of ground on which to build his primitive log home. As the years passed his industry rewarded him with prosperity and the crude log cabin gave way to a more pretentious residence, while all around substantial barns and outbuildings arose, and the size of the farm was extended by the purchase of tracts of thirty-six acres and forty acres. Mr. Anderson continued to be engaged in general farming throughout the period of his active career, and when he entered the evening of life was able to retire upon a well-earned competence. He was a democrat in politics and active in the ranks of his organization, but was held in such high esteem that he had friends and admirers in all parties. Reared in the belief of the Catholic church, he was true to his faith until his death. He and his wife were the parents of four children, as follows: Mary, who is deceased; James, a resident of Grand Rapids; Jane, who is the wife of Michael Sheehan, of Grand Rapids; and William C. Like the greater number of farmers' sons of his day and locality, William C. Anderson spent much of his boyhood and youth in hard work, but managed to gain a good education in the district schools while at the same time securing a training calculated to fit him well for his later battles with life. He remained with his father even after his majority had been reached, continuing as an employe of the elder man until he had accumulated sufficient funds to encourage him to enter upon a venture of his own, this taking shape in the form of an eighty-acre purchase in Bowne township. To this he later added eighty acres, also in Section 29, and this has been the scene of his success as a general farmer and breeder of high-grade livestock. His land is very fertile and productive, having responded readily to skilled and scientific treatment, and his buildings are commodious as to size, complete as to equipment and attractive as to appearance, while the other improvements on the farm are of a modern character that give the estate a decided air of prosperity. Mr. Anderson has other interests, owning 160 acres of land south of Freeport, Mich., and being a director in the Durkee-Lynch Biscuit Company of Grand Rapids. He is a democrat politically and has served as highway commissioner, and is a faithful member of the Catholic church, to which Mrs. Anderson also belongs. Before their marriage, Oct. 3, 1887, she was Miss Josephine F. Burns, daughter of Farrell and Rose (Colligan) Burns, of Barry county, where the latter now resides, the father being deceased. Eight children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson: Joseph B. and Leon T., who are engaged in farming in Bowne township; Farrell W., who died Feb. 24, 1917, leaving a son, Farrell C.; and James T., William C. Jr., Burns, Velma and Howard, who live

Hosted by Google

with their parents. In addition to Farrell C. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have two other grandchildren: Lawrence and Gerald Anderson, sons of their son, Joseph B.

William J. Anderson.—The old State of New York has contributed to Kent county some of its best citizens, and in this class is found William J. Anderson, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Nelson township. He was born in New York, Jan. 28, 1855, his father being Joseph Anderson, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, born June 22, 1817, and his grandfather, James Anderson, who followed the business of linen weaving in Scotland all of his life. Joseph Anderson was foreman in a foundry in his native city until 1850, in which year he emigrated to the United States, settling in the State of New York, where he took up farming as a vocation, an occupation which he followed with success during the remainder of his life. Mr. Anderson married Elizabeth Arbuckle, who no doubt could trace her ancestry back to the same common ancestor as that of the noted Arbuckles, the great coffee men, as they were also of Scotch birth. Seven children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Anderson: Isaac, formerly a farmer and now deceased; Thomas, who is engaged in farming in Michigan; John, deceased; Margery, wife of John W. Gibbons, a farmer of Rockford; Mary, who died in infancy; Joseph, deceased; and William J. William J. Anderson received his education in the district schools of New York and Michigan, and in the latter state was reared as a farmer. When he came to man's estate he engaged in farming on his own account, and at this time is the owner of a handsome property located in Nelson township, upon which he has made many valuable and attractive modern improvements. Mr. Anderson is a general farmer, but specializes to some extent in dairying, and one of the features of his property is a splendid dairy, including all the latest improvements for cleanliness and sanitation. He has built up a good business in this direction, and as he is a capable and thoroughly trained farmer, is making his property pay well for the care and labor expended upon it. He believes in the use of modern farming machinery and his equipment includes much of this labor-saving material; while his buildings are commodious, each equipped for the use for which it is intended. Mr. Anderson married Mary J. Addis, daughter of John and Mary Addis, of Oakfield, Mr. Addis being an agriculturist as well as proprietor of a grist mill. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson are the parents of seven children: Elma, who is the wife of Ray E. Birch; Beryl, who is the wife of John Casttine and has one child, Eloise; Joseph, who is working on his father's farm in Nelson township; Elizabeth, a graduate of the Cedar Springs high school, as well as a college graduate, and now engaged in teaching school at Rockford; Joy, who is the wife of George Fanyer, of Nelson township; and two who are deceased. Mr. Anderson is a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and takes quite an interest in fraternal work. He is a Republican in politics, but is not an office seeker. As a citizen he stands high among the men who contribute to the upbuilding and development of the community, and his support is always given to movements of merit which his judgment tells him will add to the general welfare.

James H. Andrews.—In the history of the men of the past and present who have figured prominently in Kent county in general af-

Hosted by Google

fairs, the name of James H. Andrews should be given a prominent place. He is a veteran of the great Civil war, in which he fought as a soldier of the Union for three years; was for many years engaged in agricultural pursuits in Vergennes township; and is now living in retirement, enjoying not only the rewards of a well-directed life, but the unqualified confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens, won through an active and honorable career. Mr. Andrews was born in Niagara county, New York, July 13, 1841, a son of Alva H. and Maria (Andrews) Andrews. His father was born and reared in Massachusetts, and as a young man went to New York, where his marriage occurred and where he resided for several years. In 1843 he brought his family to the West, settling in Kent county at a time when there were but three white families in the little settlement of Vergennes township, when Indians were still here in large numbers, and where wild game formed a large part of the family larder. Amid these primitive surroundings, the sturdy pioneer and his worthy and courageous wife settled in a little log cabin home on 120 acres of government land. No improvements had been made on this property—it was just as Nature and the Indians had left it; but after a few years evidences of the elder Andrews' industry and energetic work began to show themselves, and ere long a productive farm was producing regular crops, while the implements and improvements of civilization appeared with each ensuing year. As his resources became better, Mr. Andrews added to his land, finally becoming the owner of 310 acres, all under cultivation. He was a skilled and capable general farmer, finding a good market for his products and handling his business affairs with intelligence and judgment, and thus it was that he remained as a successful farmer, while there were many, less capable and persistent, who admitted defeat and returned to the more civilized communities of the East. Alva H. Andrews was a stanch Republican, and while never a politician or office seeker, was an acknowledged influence in his community. He rounded out a long and useful life, won and held the esteem of his neighbors and those with whom he came into contact in business, and was in every way a dependable and substantial citizen. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Mrs. Helene Purdy, of Kent county; James H., of this notice; John A., of Grattan township, Kent county; Mary, of Hastings, Mich.; Francis, who is deceased; Charles, a resident of Ionia county, Mich.; Alva M., who resides at Lowell; and Hettie, of Grattan township. James H. Andrews was educated in the public schools of Vergennes township, primitive log houses where only the rudiments of learning were taught. He grew up in a neighborhood largely undeveloped and early learned to be self-reliant and to put a proper value upon labor and money. When the Civil war came on, he left the homestead, where he had worked as his father's assistant, and, answering the call of his country, enlisted in Company B, Twenty-fifth Michigan infantry, under Colonel Moore, continuing to serve with that organization for three years. He participated in numerous heavy engagements and had a brilliant record as a soldier, and had the great distinction of being chosen as one of the pallbearers of President Lincoln and one of the guard of honor at the martyred president's funeral. In this connection it may be here noted that Mr. Andrews has been the subject of several newspaper articles

Hosted by Google

appearing in the large papers, in which he has given his reminiscences of the time when the whole country was plunged in grief. When he returned to the life of the civilian, he returned to his father's farm for a time and continued to work for the elder man until he was able to buy his first tract of land, a property consisting of eighty acres. To this he subsequently added twenty acres, and here, in Vergennes township, Section 3, carried on general farming for many years. He also met with success in stock raising, and eventually, when he had accumulated a competency, retired from active labors, although he continues to make his home on the farm on which he labored for so many years. Mr. Andrews' life has been an active and useful one and while he has been adding to his own fortunes he has not neglected to give his community the kind of support that is demanded of good citizenship. He has served efficiently in the capacity of school director of Vergennes township and has co-operated with other public-spirited men in advancing beneficial movements. Mr. Andrews votes the Republican ticket. He has never lost interest in the soldiers of the Union with whom he fought, side by side, and is a popular comrade of Lowell Post, Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Andrews was united in marriage, May 27, 1871, with Miss Flora R. Davis, of Grattan township, Kent county, and they have a daughter, Eva, who is the wife of William Engle, who is farming the Andrews place.

Alvin Apsey is one of the industrious and reliable farmers of Caledonia township, classed with the present rising generation of agriculturists, who are acknowledged to be as broad and scientific in their methods and as fruitful in valuable results to the community as the workers in any other branch of modern industry. In the field of agriculture it has often happened that the fathers have secured the broad and fertile tracts of land which the sons have brought to their full capacity of productiveness. The rough, preliminary labors of the pioneers are as necessary as the developing work of the later generations; all combine for the general advancement of the wonderful agricultural interests of the county. While Mr. Apsey is not now operating the farm secured here by his father, much of his young manhood was spent on that property and there he secured the training that has made him entitled to enumeration among the progressive tillers of the soil in his locality. Alvin Apsey was born in Cascade township, Kent county, Michigan, Aug. 30, 1872, son of John and Susan (Corman) Apsey. His father, a native of England, immigrated to the United States when a youth of sixteen years, and grew to manhood in the vicinity of Lansing, Mich., where he eventually acquired a farm of 160 acres. This he later sold and came to Kent county, where he bought eighty acres of unimproved land in Lowell township and after placing it under a high state of cultivation disposed of it to advantage and took up his residence in Cascade township on another eighty-acre farm. There this industrious and highly respected early settler rounded out a long and useful career and died with a record of satisfying success behind him. For thirty-five years he resided in one community, and during this long period his fellow-citizens learned to recognize and appreciate his many sterling qualities of character and to admire his good citizenship. The eighth in order of birth of his parents' eleven children, Alvin Apsey received a

Hosted by Google

district school education, following which he attended the Grand Rapids Business College for two years. Reared to the vocation of agriculturist, for fourteen years he was a renter of land from his father, but finally decided to engage in operations on his own account, and began his experience by buying thirty acres of timbered land, which he partly cleared and then sold. In 1911 he came to Caledonia township, buying 160 acres of land, which he has put under cultivation, now owning one of the really valuable properties in the township. Practically all the improvements on this farm, which is situated in Section 17, are due to his initiative and ability to get along, and his farm embodies the advanced and practical utilities of the progressive and up-to-date agriculturist who believes in elevating his mental as well as financial surroundings. Mr. Apsey is a Democrat, but politics have played no part in his career, nor has he been a seeker of public preferment at the hands of his fellows. He believes in movements which advance the community's interests and is always willing to give his support to such enterprises. His fraternal connection is with the Masons. Mr. Apsey is unmarried and makes his home with his mother.

Mrs. E. C. Apsey.—Holding the unique distinction of being the only woman in Kent county to own a newspaper, Mrs. E. C. Apsey of Caledonia, has become widely known in journalistic circles of this part of Michigan as a capable publisher, a brilliant writer and a stanch supporter of educational and other movements and particularly of those matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of her sex. Mrs. Apsey was born at Caledonia, Kent county, Michigan, Feb. 7, 1873, daughter of John W. and Phiana (Andrews) Stone, formerly of Pennsylvania, the family being of Swiss descent. John W. Stone was a sawyer by trade, but as a young man contracted the gold fever at the time of the discovery of the precious metal and left his home to make the journey across the plains to California. After several years' work in prospecting and mining, he made his way back to the East and for a time resided at LaGrange, Ind., where he was variously employed, principally as a sawyer and farmer. In 1872 he brought his family to Kent county, Michigan, and secured eighty acres of land, upon which he has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits. He has made numerous improvements on his farm and is now accounted one of the substantial and well-to-do men of his locality, and a sterling citizen who is greatly interested in various progressive movements and principally in the cause of education. He is a Republican, holds membership in no fraternal lodges, and belongs to the United Brethren church, of which Mrs. Stone, who died in 1908, was also a member. Mr. Stone was instrumental in erecting the United Brethren church edifice at Caledonia, has supported it generously, and has numerous other good works to his credit. He and Mrs. Stone were the parents of the following children: Ira A., a resident of San Juan Bautista, Cal.; Birdia M., who is the wife of R. H. Bennett, an attorney of Iola, Kans.; Oscar O., of Plainwell, Mich., who is associated with the Michigan Concrete Road Association; William J., an engineer on the G. R. & I. railroad; Mrs. Apsey; Blanche M., who is single and engaged in merchandising at Winnetka, Ill.; and Louis L., who is connected with the Hunt Engineering Company. Mrs. Apsey was given good educational advantages as a

Hosted by Google

girl and young woman, attending the graded and high schools at Caledonia and subsequently taking two years of training at Ann Arbor. Subsequently she became an educator for several years, teaching shorthand and typewriting in the McLachlan Business College at Grand Rapids. From girlhood she had possessed a taste and liking for journalism, and in December, 1905, embarked upon her career as a newspaper woman when she bought the Caledonia News, of which she has since been publisher and editor. When she took charge of this publication it printed a five-column page, which has since been advanced to a seven-column sheet. In various other ways the newspaper has grown and advanced under her able and judicious management of its affairs, and due appreciation of her work is found in the fact that the circulation has doubled during the time of her ownership, now having upwards of 1,000 subscribers on the circulation list. Mrs. Apsey conducts the News as an organ independent of party affiliation, and in its publication and editorship endeavors to give her readers an accurate, concise and strictly reliable presentation of the news. The paper is well edited and of attractive appearance and make-up, and has been generously supported by the advertising public. As an active worker for woman's suffrage, Mrs. Apsey has devoted a good deal of space in her columns to this subject and has done much to influence public opinion to a favorable view of the rights of her sex for participation in national affairs. She has earned a prominent place in her profession, and has been particularly active in the State Publishers & Printers' Association, of which she is one of the vice-presidents; and in the West Michigan Press Association, of which she has been secretary since its organization. She is a member and secretary of the Thornapple Valley Pioneer Association, and has long been an active worker in the Congregational church. On June 19, 1895, occurred her marriage to Edwin C. Apsey, a son of Samuel and Mary (Hake) Apsey, of London, England. The parents of Mr. Apsey came to the United States in 1871 and settled permanently at Caledonia, where the elder Apsey followed the stone mason's trade and where both he and his wife died. To Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Apsey two children have been born: Cecil Louise, born Sept. 8, 1901, a graduate in the 1918 class of the Grand Rapids High School; and Blanche Ethel, born Nov. 6, 1903, and also a student at that school. Mr. Apsey is well known at Grand Rapids, where for eighteen years he has been employed in the purchasing department of the general offices of the G. R. & I. railroad. He is a Mason, and has been active in the work of the Congregational church and in the Sunday school work of Kent county.

John A. Arehart.—The manager of one of the leading manufacturing concerns outside of the larger cities, John A. Arehart is an example of that spirit of enterprise which has so distinguished Kent county during recent years. Here have been founded, fostered and expanded some notable enterprises, which have carried the community's reputation far beyond the limits of the state, often arousing surprise, envy and emulation, and often commanding admiration. Behind these enterprises stand the able men who have consistently carried out the policies which have resulted in such commercial prosperity. Belonging to this class of capable and energetic business men, John A. Arehart needs no introduction to the people of Lowell,

Hosted by Google

where he has been a resident since 1905 and secretary and manager of the Lowell Specialty Company since 1912. John A. Arehart was born May 11, 1883, at Otsego, Allegan county, Michigan, son of Bernard and Augusta (Paulus) Arehart, both of whom are deceased. When he was ten years of age he was taken by his parents to Martin, Mich., where he completed his common school education, and this was followed by a course at the Grand Rapids Business College. His first practical experience in business was gained at Cecil Bay, Mich., where for one year he was employed as bookkeeper for the Emmett Lumber Company, and in 1905 he came to Lowell to accept a like position with the Lowell Specialty Company, with which concern he has since been identified. The Lowell Specialty Company was organized in the year 1900, by D. G. Look and W. A. Watts, prominent Lowell business men and financiers, for the manufacture of all kinds of sprayers. Since that time it has enjoyed a steady growth, which has been more noticeable since 1912, when Mr. Arehart was placed in the office of secretary and manager. The other officers of the concern are J. S. Bergin, president; D. G. Look, first vice-president and treasurer; and J. B. Nicholson, second vice-president. The company is now capitalized at $75,000, and employs forty-five men, its product being known all over the United States, its market not being confined to any particular locality. When Mr. Arehart was placed in his present position, the company was operating with one building, with about 3,000 square feet of floor space. Since that time, in the order named, there have been erected three new buildings, a two-story brick structure, 33x103 feet, a two-story cement plant, 28x80 feet, and a two-story tile factory, 46x50 feet, with numerous smaller out-buildings and additions. These buildings are modern in every particular and the main structures are equipped with the Globe Sprinkling System, for fire protection. The volume of business now being done by this plant may be judged from the fact that it is at this time six months behind in its orders, being unable to fill these until new buildings are erected, making a place for the necessary machinery and the hiring of added employes. Much of the success of this business must be accredited to the ability, resource, judgment and business courage of Mr. Arehart, who is accounted one of the ablest young men connected with the manufacturing industry at Lowell, and whose associates in the business world evidenced this faith in 1916 when they elected him president of the Lowell Board of Trade. He has always maintained an independent stand on political questions, and after two years of service on the town council was re-elected, in 1917, for another term. Fraternally, he is identified with the Knights of Columbus, at Grand Rapids; and Three Island Lodge No. 809, Loyal Order of Moose, at Lowell, and is popular in both orders. With Mrs. Arehart and their children, he attends services at Saint Mary's Catholic church, Lowell, of which they are members. Mr. Arehart was married Nov. 24, 1909, to Frances Izena, daughter of John S. and Mary (McGee) Bergin, natives of Michigan. Mrs. Bergin died in 1908, while Mr. Bergin, who is president of the Lowell Specialty Company, is a resident of Grand Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Arehart are the parents of three children: George A., born Nov. 16, 1910; Mary F., born Feb. 27, 1912, and William B., born March 1, 1917.

Hosted by Google

Rev. Philipous Abo Assaley.—Through the earnest and unselfish labors of its pastor, St. George's First Syrian Orthodox Church of Grand Rapids has been placed upon a self-supporting basis, and since its organization, in 1908, when it was an uncertain venture, has grown into a religious body that today wields a great influence for good. Rev. Philipous Abo Assaley, its pastor, was born at Rashaya-Ellwady, State of Damascus, Syria, in 1870, son of Georgious and Rose (Mallick) Assaley, natives of the same place, where the family had lived for generations. He was educated in private schools, and in his native land taught in parochial schools for seven years, then spending one year as an educator in the town of Balaabeck and nine years in Russian schools. In 1906 he came to the United States and settled at Grand Rapids, where a number of his countrymen lived. While engaged in the work of gathering together a congregation, he worked in the Sligh Furniture Company's factory, but in 1908 resigned his position and went to Brooklyn, N. Y., where he was ordained into the ministry. In that same year he returned to Grand Rapids and organized St. George's First Syrian Orthodox church, and started the erection of the church edifice, at No. 219 Williams street, the building being completed at a cost of $5,000. Each year the parish has grown, until today it includes fifty families. In Reverend Assaley is found a wholesome and human philosopher and a most courageous ethical teacher. The fragrance of his faith, the encouragement to be found in his business success, the strength and dynamic power of his utterances from the pulpit, and his maintenance of the truth in which he believes and for which he has ever been ready to make war when attacked, unite in the making of a career of more than average purpose and usefulness. Reverend Assaley was married Feb. 1, 1903, to Yamna Zekaib, daughter of Ferris Zekaib, born in the same place as her husband. They have had the following children: Olga and George (1), who were born in Syria and died there; George (2), also born in Syria; Alexander, the first child born in the United States; Ben, who is deceased; Toofic and Shafic.

Norton Louis Avery.—In no department of human activity have there been greater strides in the past few years than in photography. The man who succeeded a decade ago would find himself hopelessly in arrears should he, with no additional equipment, attempt to cope with the conditions of the present. Photographic portraiture is an art which admits of infinite conception, and requires varied knowledge and great capacity for painstaking in its development. The men who maintain its highest artistic methods necessarily have a knowledge of human nature and are artistic and scholarly in their inclinations. To this class belongs Norton Louis Avery, to whom Lowell has looked for the best possible results in his calling, and who has a patronage by no means limited to the immediate field of his activity. Mr. Avery was born at Lowell, March 22, 1894, a son of Sherman B. and Inez (Barber) Avery, and a member of a family which has been well known and highly respected in Lowell township for three generations. His parents still reside at Lowell, where Sherman B. Avery is the oldest employe of the Lowell Cutter Company. Mr. Avery has one brother, Harvey G., who is an employe of his studio and a graduate of the Lowell high school. Norton L. Avery received his education in the Lowell public schools. He inherited a love for the beau-

Hosted by Google

tiful and an artistic temperament from his mother, who is a natural artist in oils and whose work has been commented upon favorably by critics, and at an early age became interested in the subject of photography, starting his training in that kind of work with F. B. Rhodes, of Lowell. Later he went to Battle Creek, Mich., where he furthered his education in this line with H. H. Topping, and upon his return to Lowell embarked in business on his own account. While he is practically a newcomer in a business way, he has already attracted a large patronage and has a very promising career before him. His studio is light, airy and artistic, and in its equipment permits the most satisfactory results possible with present-day knowledge of photography. In local affairs Mr. Avery is inclined to be independent in politics, but votes the Republican ticket in national elections. He is a member of Lowell Lodge No. 90, F. & A. M., and Hooker Chapter No. 73, R. A. M., in both of which he holds office, and of the Eastern Star lodge at Lowell. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Avery is popular and widely known and to his other business qualifications adds those of courtesy, tact, obligingness and strict integrity. He is now in the First company, Fourth regiment, motor mechanics, located at Camp Green, N. C.

C. Arthur Ayers, secretary of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, has been identified with this concern since its organization, in 1907. During these eleven years he has made a recognized place for himself among the men of business prowess of the Furniture City, and his untiring energies have found an outlet in the work connected with the important duties of his position. Mr. Ayers was born at Geneseo, N. Y., July 1, 1881, a son of A. H. Ayers, who came to Grand Rapids in 1896 and has since been engaged in the real estate business here. C. Arthur Ayers secured his education in the public schools of Howard City, Mich., and Grand Rapids, and the McLachlan Business College, following which he accepted a position with the Clipper Bicycle Company. Later he was identified with the Macey Company and the Grand Rapids Show Case Company, where he developed the abilities that led to his selection as secretary of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, in 1907. Mr. Ayers is a member of the official board of the First Methodist Episcopal church, and in politics is a Republican. He has taken an active part in the work of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce and the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, and has also given of his abilities and time in the encouragement of the Young Men's Christian Association movement. He is a Mason and belongs to the O-Wash-ta-nong and Hinglands Country Clubs. Mr. Ayers was married June 12, 1907, to Florence, daughter of John Bertsch, and they have two children—Caroline Josephine and Betty Jane.

Malcom A. Ayer.—Throughout his life Malcom A. Ayer has made his home in Kent county and today is identified with its agricultural and stock-raising interests. In the working out of his career it has been his fortune to have builded wisely and well upon solid foundations and to have reaped the reward that comes alone in character and achievement to those whose actions have been governed by industry and integrity. Mr. Ayer was born on his father's farm in Ensley township, Newaygo county, Michigan, March 22, 1868, son of Jacob and Amanda (Briggs) Ayer. His father was a native of Canada,

Hosted by Google

but as a young man came to the United States and when the Civil war broke out enlisted in the Union army, with which he fought all through the war until 1865, being severely wounded at the battle of Lookout Mountain. After receiving his honorable discharge, the gallant young soldier returned to Newaygo county and, in 1867, settled in Ensley township, then a practically barren country as far as farms went, although there was a plentiful growth of timber. He was married about that time to Amanda Briggs, daughter of Horace and Rhoda Briggs, her father being one of the earliest settlers of Ensley township, where he erected the seventh log house. He also cleared a small place for the family cemetery, as was the custom of the pioneers, but was so busily engaged in his other work that it was necessary for him to do this at night. In the year 1869, Horace Briggs removed with his family to Solon township, Kent county, where he engaged energetically in farming and continued to follow that vocation throughout the remainder of his life, with much success. He was a man highly respected in his community, saw the development of this section from the time when there were no railroads running even to Grand Rapids, and when he died, Jan. 27, 1901, his community lost a good citizen and he left many behind to mourn his loss. By two marriages, Jacob Ayer became the father of the following children: R. K., who died in infancy; Malcom A.; Henry, secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association at Sacramento, Cal.; Sylvia, wife of Lewis F. Wood, of Hynes, Cal., who is the owner of a ranch; R. V., of Raymond, Wash., a painter and paper hanger; and Glen, of Grand Rapids, who is connected with a chair factory. Malcom A. Ayer received his educational training in the district schools of Solon township and the public schools at Cedar Springs, and when a youth learned the carpenter trade, which he has followed in conjunction with farming, although the latter vocation receives the greater part of his time and attention. His property is situated in sections 9 and 10, and consists of 120 acres, of which sixty acres are cleared and under cultivation. Mr. Ayer has made splendid improvements on his property, including his modern home, which he erected himself and which is equipped with all modern comforts and conveniences of country life. Mr. Ayer married Miss Jennie Goller, daughter of John and Anna E. (Krause) Goller, of Algoma township, Kent county, both of whom are deceased. Mr. Goller had a long and useful career in Algoma township, where he was greatly respected, and at the time of his demise had reached the remarkable age of ninety-one years, Mrs. Goller dying at the age of seventy years. Mr. Ayer is a Republican. He is a good citizen, willing to accept responsibilities, and has served in the office of treasurer of the school board. Fraternally, he belongs to Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., at Cedar Springs, of which he has been master two years, senior deacon two years and junior warden one year; and he and Mrs. Ayer belong to the Eastern Star. He also holds membership in the local Grange and is a student of agricultural conditions and methods.

James Wesley Bailey.—Some of the best farmers of Kent county are those who have inherited their land, or a part of it, from their fathers, and are now carrying on operations on soil upon which the greater part of their lives has been passed. Having spent so many years in close connection with these farms, they are fully informed as to their soil, their needs and their possibilities, and thus are able to

Hosted by Google

give them the proper attention and treatment, which results in the security of best returns. Of the farmers of the northern part of the county who stand in this class, one who is widely and favorably known is James Wesley Bailey, of Nelson township. This community has been his home since his early childhood and he is not only esteemed for his skill and knowledge as an agriculturist, but for many years of faithful and valuable service in positions of public trust. James Wesley Bailey was born in LaGrange township, Lorain county, Ohio, Jan. 30, 1852, son of Sanford H. Bailey. The latter, a carpenter by trade and a native of New York, removed to Ohio as a young man and for several years lived in Lorain county, but in 1849, the year of the discovery of gold in California, came to the West and purchased part of the farm now owned by James W. Bailey, at that time land on which no improvements had been made. This he secured at $1.25 per acre from the United States government. He then returned to Ohio, but came back to Michigan the same Fall, this time bringing with him his family. Mr. Bailey continued to make this his home during the remainder of his life, cleared up a large part of his acreage, and made his farm one of the best of his locality. He was a man of industry who occupied high standing in the community and had the confidence of his fellow-citizens. He married Alzina, daughter of Hiram Smith, and of this union there were born the following children: Duain, James Wesley, Theodore and Ulysses H., of whom James W. is the only survivor. Sanford H. Bailey married for his second wife Elizabeth Shores. James W. Bailey grew up amid pioneer surroundings in Kent county and obtained his education in the early district schools, after leaving which he learned the business of milling, which he followed for some years in connection with farm work. Eventually, however, he gave up milling to devote his entire time to agriculture, and the latter has been the real vocation of his life. His industry and good management made him successful in his operations and from time to time he was able to add to his acreage, until at the present time his operations cover a wide scope and his property is now one of the most valuable in Nelson township. Mr. Bailey married Agnes A. McMurrey, and four children have been born to this union: Laverne M., a graduate of the State Normal School, who has taught school for seven years and is now a teacher in the South Division school at Grand Rapids; Robert E., who is engaged in operations on a part of the home farm; Harry died at the age of twenty years, and Lee W. resides with his parents and is assisting his father. James W. Bailey has been active in the civic affairs of his township and for thirty years contributed to the educational advancement of the community while serving as a member of the board of school directors. He has also been highway commissioner for two terms and at present is acting capably as justice of the peace. His public service has been efficient and conscientious, well entitling him to the reputation which he enjoys of being one of the valuable and public-spirited men of Nelson township. He is a supporter of the Republican party and its candidates in political matters.

J. C. Ballard.—The contribution of J. C. Ballard to the commercial interests of Sparta consists of two well-established business concerns, one devoted to furniture and undertaking and the other to the sale of hardware. Prior to locating permanently here as a proprie-

Hosted by Google

tor, he had a number of years' experience in business matters, so that it was not in the first untried experience of youth that he assumed the responsibilities of a mercantile career, but as a mature man with a thorough knowledge of conditions and methods. During the six years that he has conducted his stores he has built up a representative trade of the best kind, through honorable policies and integrity in his dealings. Mr. Ballard was born on a farm in Sparta township, Kent county, Michigan, June 5, 1874, son of Sherre H. and Elizabeth S. (Swenson) Ballard, natives of Michigan. The family is an old and honored one in this locality, having been founded here as early as 1850 by the grandparents of Mr. Ballard who settled in Sparta township at a point which subsequently became known as Ballard's Corners and there passed their lives in agricultural pursuits. Sherre H. Ballard followed in his father's footsteps as a farmer and became a man of good circumstances, being respected in his community for his industry and honorable methods. From 1884 to 1900 he was in the general merchandise business in Sparta, and his son, J. C., was with him during this time. Both he and his wife have passed away. They were the parents of five children: Harry W., J. C., May E., who is deceased; Charles S., and Lawrence. J. C. Ballard had the advantages of a public school education in Kent county, supplemented by a course at Valparaiso (Ind.) University. He then became connected with a mercantile firm, having preferred a business career to one in farming, and continued as a clerk until he was twenty-four years old. At that time he went on the road for a manufacturing concern and continued as a knight of the grip for twelve years. Having by this time accumulated some capital, and being desirous of a permanent settlement instead of the constant going from place to place, made necessary by his traveling salesman vocation, in 1912 he came to Sparta and established himself in the furniture and undertaking business. Encouraged by his success therein, he shortly thereafter bought S. C. Fields & Company's hardware store, and this likewise has proved a prosperous venture. In the working out of his career, Mr. Ballard has been steadfastly honorable, continuously industrious and notably progressive, with the result that his success is a satisfactory one, builded upon something substantial. He has taken an active and helpful part in civic affairs, and the confidence of his fellow-citizens in electing him alderman of Sparta was not misplaced, for he gave them conscientiously capable service. He is a Mason and is secretary of his chapter. He belongs to the Church of Christ at Grand Rapids, but attends the Baptist church at Sparta, where there is no congregation of the former denomination. Mr. Ballard was married July 9, 1906, to Miss Agnes Finney, daughter of L. H. and Lillie (Stimpson) Finney, and of this union there have been born two children: Evelyn and Jack, both at home.

Rev. Henry Bank, the learned and pious pastor of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Lowell, has, since coming to this place in 1909, been the means of many improvements and additions being made in the church and the parish. His clerical jurisdiction is of no small extent, and he finds ample scope for his characteristic zeal and energy; while here, as in all his previous incumbencies, he has gained for himself an enviable popularity and the well-merited love and esteem of his parishioners. Rev. Henry Bank was born in Germany,

Hosted by Google

Jan. 14, 1865, son of Henry and Henrietta (Diehl) Bank. His father, who was engaged in agricultural pursuits in his native land, never left that country, but the mother, coming to the United States in her seventy-third year, died in the State of New York. There were eight children in the family: William, who resides in Germany; Carl, of Saginaw, Mich.; Rev. Henry; August and George, of Germany, the latter a soldier in the great war; Louise and Lena, of Germany; and Fiena, of Saginaw, Mich. Henry Bank was educated in his native land, was there prepared to assume his ministerial labors, and held several parishes in Germany, where he was married, in 1895. Shortly thereafter he brought his bride to the United States and took a charge at Auburn, Ind., where he remained two years and where both he and his wife took out their first naturalization papers. He was next stationed at Pigeon, Mich., where he remained five years, being then transferred to Hopkins, Mich., for three years, and to Bay City for a like period. In 1909 he came to Lowell, where he has since been located, and where, by his piety and his assiduous attentions to the welfare of his flock, both spiritual and material, he has gained their affection and reverence. The German Methodist Episcopal church of Lowell was founded in 1892 by Rev. Rogatzky, and at that time the present church was erected. He was succeeded in 1897 by Rev. Maag, followed by Rev. Ruikheim in 1900, and by Rev. Magdane in 1903, the last named remaining until the arrival of Rev. Bank in 1909. The parish has showed a steady growth and development, and now has approximately 110 members of the older generation, who worship in their native tongue, the younger people having their services in English. The congregation includes members who come from a radius of eight miles to attend. Rev. Henry Bank was married July 11, 1895, in Germany, to Miss Clara, daughter of Herman and Wilhelmina (Uueck) Lorence, the former of whom died in Germany, while the latter is living in New York. There were eleven children in the Lorence family: Oswald, of Germany; Clara, wife of Rev. Bank; Emma, of Germany; Max, who lives in the State of Oregon; Freda, wife of the United States consul to Switzerland; Rosa, who lives in Germany; and Elya, Marie, Paul, Madeline and Walter, who all live in New York with their mother. Rev. and Mrs. Bank are the parents of five children, born as follows: Carl, May 26, 1896; Theo, Dec. 13, 1897; Erhart, Dec. 21, 1900; Oswald, July 13, 1903; and Freda, Nov. 5, 1905. Carl and Theo are soldiers in the United States army and recently saw active service on the border during this country's trouble with Mexico. Rev. Bank is now in the prime of life and at the height of his usefulness. The respect which he inspired on his arrival has not abated, but has increased as time has passed. To the talents of a pastor is united the learning of a scholar, and these combined with a rare business tact and ability to govern have made him a power for good in his community and have gained him the confidence and good will of all classes and denominations.

William O. Barber.—For nearly seventy years a resident of Kent county and during forty-five years of that period engaged in the practice of dentistry, William O. Barber is one of the best known, as he is also one of the most highly respected, citizens of Caledonia. He has been a companion of the wilderness and an eye-witness of the numerous changes which have taken place in the development of this

Hosted by Google

now prosperous and thriving community, and has done his share in bringing about the progressive movements which have meant so much to the people of the southern part of the county. Dr. Barber was born in Illinois, June 7, 1847, a son of O. B. and Abigail (Mason) Barber, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York State. His father, who was a carpenter by trade, went to Illinois in 1846 and for two years was engaged in farming there, but as the outlook did not suit him in the Prairie State, decided to try a new locality, choosing Michigan as his point of destination. In 1848 he drove sixteen head of cattle and fourteen horses overland to Caledonia, at a time when there were but seven voters in the township, and here traded his live stock for 120 acres of uncleared Kent county land. His first home was a primitive log cabin, built by himself, and as he had no capital he was forced to work out among his neighbors, receiving fifty cents per day for his labor, and at the end of two years was finally able to purchase a cow from the Indians. The obstacles which he met and overcame in his early struggles would seem practically unsurmountable today, but he sturdily kept on, cheerfully accepting whatever hard knocks had been kept in store for him by fate and always attacking his work with renewed vigor and determination. This kind of persistence eventually brought its success. As the years passed he cleared more and more of his land, added new buildings and equipment, and in time became one of the substantial men of his community and an influential citizen who held nearly all the offices, at one time or another, within the gift of the people of his township. His industry was shown in the fact that he worked at the wage of seventy-five cents per day in laying out township roads, and his progressiveness is evidenced by his owning the first wagon in the township. He was a stanch and unwavering Republican in his political alliance, a member of the Masonic lodge at Caledonia and one of the founders of the Old Settlers' Association in his locality. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Mary, who is the widow of the late George Barbour and resides at Caledonia; Maria S., who is the wife of Dr. Brown, of Washington; William O., of this notice; Emma, who is the wife of Jude Alleman, a farmer of Sunfield, Mich.; Dr. Mason J., who is a practicing physician and surgeon of Mayger, Ore.; Letta, deceased, who was the wife of Louis Smith, now residing on the home farm; Frederick R., who is engaged in farming at Six Lakes, Minn.; and Frank, of Tacoma, Wash., proprietor of a meat market. William O. Barber received his early education in the public schools of Caledonia, where he grew up amid pioneer surroundings and assisted his father and brothers in the hard work of clearing and cultivating a virgin farm. The life of an agriculturist, however, did not appeal to the young man, and when he reached his majority he went to Newcastle, Canada, where he studied dentistry and successfully passed the examination in 1872. Returning to Caledonia he at once established himself in the business of his profession, and at this time is one of the oldest practitioners in point of service in the state. Dr. Barber is a veteran of the Civil war, having been a member of the First Michigan light artillery from 1863 until the close of the war, taking part in numerous battles, and establishing a fine record for gallantry and fidelity to duty. He is a Republican in politics and a charter member of Caledonia Lodge of Masons, in

Hosted by Google

which order he has attained high standing. He is one of the public-spirited citizens of his community and has assisted numerous movements which have contributed to the general welfare. Although he has reached the age of seventy years, he is still active in body and alert in mind, in full possession of his faculties, showing the results of a well-lived career. In his neighborhood he is known as a noted hunter of big game, having never lost the zest and thrill that comes from bringing down some noble animal of the forest. Every year he makes a trip to some favored hunting spot, having visited every county in the upper peninsula, and can now show a photograph of a 198-pound buck which fell a victim to his rifle in the fall of 1916. Mr. Barber was first married to Miss Ruth Campbell and they had a son, Claude R., of Chicago, assistant superintendent of the Western Union and Postal Telegraph and Bell Telephone Company offices. Mr. Barber was married, second, Oct. 25, 1892, to Mrs. Allie Dibeler, daughter of Benjamin Fulton, of Ohio. Claude R. Barber has two children—Dorothy and Donald.

Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company.—Among the business houses of Grand Rapids which have come prominently to the front during recent years, taking advantage of the unusual opportunities which are here offered and attaining thereby creditable success, one that is well known not only in this city, but throughout Michigan in its special field, is that of Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company. This concern, which handles mill and factory supplies, pipe valves, fittings, transmission, roofing, etc., is composed of business men who have years of experience behind them and consummate ability as one of their principal assets. As a sound and progressive enterprise this business is contributing materially to the prestige of the city in commercial circles, and in its membership reflects the spirit of energy and integrity that has been a determining factor in giving Grand Rapids a place among the cities whose reputation extends to far-distant points. This business was founded in 1875 by E. G. Studley, who continued alone until 1890, in which year W. Y. Barclay bought an interest and the firm of Studley & Barclay was formed. In the summer of 1907 the firm was reorganized by John Bertsch, W. Y. Barclay, and others, and a corporation was formed known as Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, with the following officials: John Bertsch, president; W. Y. Barclay, vice-president and general manager; C. A. Ayers, secretary; and C. H. Bertsch, treasurer; with a capital stock of $52,000. The same officers and directors now control the affairs of the company that were chosen at the time of the incorporation. By 1909 the business had grown to such proportions that it was found necessary to have larger quarters, and accordingly the present building was erected by John Bertsch. This was the first concrete building in Grand Rapids to be devoted to a mercantile business, is fireproof, six floors in height, and 50x100 feet in dimension. Fifteen people are employed by the company, in addition to which there are four traveling salesmen on the road, the entire western part of Michigan being covered as a territory for the sale of the concern's product. This as noted includes mill and factory supplies, pipe valves and fittings, a specialty being made of roofing and of transmission, which the firm handles as distributor for the Dodge Manufacturing Company.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



W. Barclay

Hosted by Google

Warren Y. Barclay, vice-president and general manager of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, is one of the self-made men of Grand Rapids of whom the city has every reason to be proud. Forced to begin his battle with life at a tender age, he was denied many of the advantages which it is assumed youth should enjoy, and his success has been attained without the aid of outside influences, having been acquired in spite of obstacles and discouraging circumstances. Mr. Barclay is a product of Kent county, having been born in the little community of Smyrna, March 27, 1851. His father was Charles Barclay, who came to Grand Rapids in 1854 and established a brick yard, but in 1860 transferred his attention to agricultural pursuits and passed the remainder of his life therein with the exception of the time that he spent as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war. Warren Y. Barclay was educated in the public schools, and when but fourteen years of age was compelled to give up his studies to work on the home farm, his father having joined the army. From 1860 until 1870 he was in the employ of W. D. Foster, and in the latter year transferred his services to E. G. Studley as a salesman, until he was taken into partnership in the firm of Studley & Barclay, in 1890. From that time to the present his history has been that of the company with which he is now identified, and the credit for the success of which rests largely in his splendid business ability and persevering energy. Mr. Barclay is not only ranked with the able business men of Grand Rapids, but stands high as a citizen who is ever ready to do his full part in constructive work. He is a Republican in his political views and an attendant of the Fountain Street Baptist church. He was first married in 1863 to Miss Dora A. Bigelow, of Grand Rapids, and they had three children: J. Myrtle, widow of Ralph Munn, of Auburn, N. Y.; Estella B., wife of Bert Fell, of Chicago, Ill., and Wallace G., of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Barclay died in 1889, and in 1893 Mr. Barclay married Mrs. Maude J. Fleming, of Trenton, Mich.

Harold M. Barnes.—Belonging to the young and energetic element so typical of twentieth century progress and advancement, Harold M. Barnes has had a career characterized by steady development of abilities, and today occupies a position of prominence with one of the well-known manufacturing concerns of Grand Rapids. The treasurer and general manager of the Grand Rapids Brush Company is by birth, nurture, education and training a true son of the Middle West. He was born May 6, 1880, at Marshalltown, Ia., where his early education was secured, following which he took a course in the University of Colorado, and then enrolled as a student at the University of Chicago, in which he was duly graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His first employment was in the field of journalism, for upon leaving college halls he secured a position with the Chicago Tribune, and worked with that paper until 1904, the year of his advent in Grand Rapids. For six months following his arrival he was employed on the Grand Rapids Herald, but resigned his post with that publication to join the advertising department of the Michigan Artisan, where he remained about a half a year. He was next connected with the advertising department of the International Harvester Company for two years, leaving that concern to become assistant advertising manager of the National Cash Register Company, of Dayton, Ohio. He next gained added experience as advertising manager for

Hosted by Google

the Standard Varnish Works, of New York and Chicago, and remained with that company for three years, then going to Minneapolis in a like capacity for the Russell-Miller Milling Company. After three years with that house, he became advertising representative for Everybody's Magazine, leaving that publication after one and one-half years, Aug. 15, 1915, when he became general manager of the Grand Rapids Brush Company. He continues to retain the general managership, has also assumed the duties of treasurer, and is likewise a member of the directorate. This company was organized in 1873, with a capital stock of $50,000, by A. B. Watson, president; Julius Berkey, vice-president; W. M. Clark, secretary, and O. B. Wilmarth, treasurer. Since that time many changes have been made, and the capital stock of the concern is $100,000, with the following officials: C. C. Converse, president; J. A. Covode, vice-president; H. M. Barnes, treasurer and general manager, and Mrs. K. E. Green, secretary. More than 150 people are given employment in the manufacture of all kinds of brushes, and four salesmen are on the road, with the entire country as their territory. Mr. Barnes and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. He is one of the enthusiastic members of the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids, and holds membership also in the Anti-Tuberculosis Association, the Credit Men's Association, the Association of Commerce, Peninsular Club, and Highlands Country Club. He is also a member of the college fraternity of Sigma Nu. Since his permanent location at Grand Rapids, he has interested himself actively in various public-spirited movements and his name is frequently found upon the lists of those backing beneficial movements. Mr. Barnes was married June 20, 1906, to Miss Jennie E. Hall, of McGregor, Tex., and of this union there have been born two children —Jane and Harold M., Jr.

Charles H. Bender.—Included in the ranks of successful Grand Rapids bankers are to be found many men who have been the architects of their own fortunes, who, imbued with ambition in early youth, set about to better their conditions and to make a place for themselves among men of recognized standing and prominence. Not all who start out in life with such worthy ideals and ambitions reach their cherished goal. In some cases circumstances over which they have no control thwart them; in others they aim too high for their abilities. However, Charles H. Bender may be said to have achieved many of his aims, for at a time in life when he finds his energies still unabated and his intellect fully alert, he occupies an accepted position of distinction as president of the City Trust & Savings Bank. Mr. Bender was born at Batavia, N. Y., Sept. 11, 1860, and is a son of William and Josephine (Hamberger) Bender. His parents, natives of Germany, immigrated to the United States in 1842 and passed their lives in the East, where both died, the father having followed the business of a general contractor for many years. The early education of Charles H. Bender came from the public schools of Batavia, and when he removed to Buffalo he improved himself by study at a night school there. The youth seized the opportunity offered to study shorthand and prepared himself for stenography in Buffalo, where he secured his first employment. He remained in an office there as stenographer and general clerk until 1881, in which year he came to Grand Rapids and became identified in a clerical capacity with M. H.

Hosted by Google

Ford, as his assistant as court stenographer. The experience which he gained in this direction enabled him to embark in a like business on his own account, which he conducted with success for a number of years, constantly gaining more and more prestige. In 1910 he was called to the vice-presidency of the Grand Rapids National Bank, which he still retains. In January, 1915, he was made president of the City Trust & Savings Bank, in which capacity he still remains. Mr. Bender is a cool-headed banker, progressive yet conservative, forceful yet careful. The confidence in which he is held by the depositors of his institution is shared by that of his business associates and few names carry more weight or influence in banking circles or stand for a higher grade of business integrity and personal probity. Mr. Bender is a banker and not a politician, but he is also a good citizen who recognizes and realizes the responsibilities of citizenship, and for ten years was a member of the Police and Fire Commission of the city. He votes the Democratic ticket. He was married Feb. 5, 1891, to Miss Sallie Knapp, of New Orleans, La., and they have two children, Theodore K. and Josephine.

Reuben F. Benton.—Because of the intelligence and good judgment of many of the large farmers of Kent county, this section of the state has contributed much to the general food supply, and few other industries, when properly conducted, have been so well worth engaging in or so compensating when everything is taken into consideration. One of the industrious and enterprising farmers, who during a long period contributed largely to his county's prestige in an agricultural way, was the late Reuben F. Benton, who was a resident of Bowne township from 1878 until his death, July 26, 1913. Mr. Benton was born in the State of Ohio, July 22, 1852, son of Asa E. and Sarah Benton, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of Pennsylvania. They were farming people in Ohio throughout their lives and during their last few years retired from active pursuits and moved to a village near the old homestead, where they passed peacefully away. Their four children were Mary, deceased; Reuben F.; Charles, a college professor and president of the Valparaiso (Ind.) Bank; and Gilbert, a successful medical practitioner of Cleveland, Ohio. Reuben F. Benton attended the public schools of Ohio until he was sixteen years old, at which time he began to learn the trade of brick mason and plasterer. He followed his vocation in Ohio until 1878, in which year he came to Michigan and began renting land, and through his tireless industry and good management accumulated sufficient means with which to purchase eighty acres of land in Bowne township, to which he later added a like acreage. He carried on general farming in a successful way, and at one time was a breeder of blooded Jersey cattle, and at all times was known as a dependable and reliable citizen. He made all the improvements on his farm, and after his first home had been destroyed by fire built a new and modern residence, where his last years were spent. He had various interests in a business way, and was connected with the creamery at Freeport, and the honorable and straightforward manner in which his transactions were always conducted earned him the confidence of his associates. As an agriculturist, always willing to adopt new methods when shown to be practicable, he belonged to the Grange, and his fraternal connection was with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Politically he

Hosted by Google

was a Republican. Mr. Benton served his community as highway commissioner and in other ways, and, all in all, was a representative of the best agricultural element of Bowne township. Mr. Benton was married March 15, 1879, to Adelaide, daughter of James and Angeline (King) Brew, both now deceased, natives of the State of New York, from whence they migrated at an early date to Barry county, Michigan. These worthy farming people were the parents of eight children: William, of Hastings, Mich.; Augusta, residing at Grand Rapids, wife of D. H. Mosher, a contractor of that city; Charles, deceased; Adelaide, now Mrs. Benton; Cora, wife of A. Newman, of Grand Rapids; Jay, who lives in Canada; Kittie, wife of Edward Johnson, of Grand Rapids; and Frank, of Alto. Mr. and Mrs. Benton had two children: Wayne, who is farming the home property and has three children—Werner and Russell and Doris; and Gertrude, wife of Watt Thomas, a farmer of Bowne township, who has one daughter, Beatrice.

Charles A. Berry.—The roster of public officials of Kent county contains the name of no more efficient public servant than that of Charles A. Berry, who is now serving his second term in the office of sheriff. While a native of the East, he was brought to Michigan as a boy and the greater part of his life has been passed at Grand Rapids, where for more than twenty years he has been engaged, in one or another capacity, in safeguarding the lives and property interests of the people. Sheriff Berry was born at Pleasant Valley, N. J., Oct. 17, 1872, being a son of Paul and Anna (Gunneson) Berry. His father, a native of Sweden and a laborer by vocation, immigrated to the United States in 1870, and after a short stay in New Jersey went to Dallas, Tex., from whence he came to Michigan in 1881. He continued to be engaged in various employments during the remainder of his life and died at Grand Rapids in 1905. He belonged to the Swedish Lutheran church, of which Mrs. Berry, who survives him and resides with her son at Grand Rapids, is also a member. Charles A. Berry secured a public school education at Newaygo, Mich., following which he learned the trade of cabinet maker, which he followed until 1895. In the meantime, in 1891, he came to Grand Rapids, where he was employed by the Widdicomb Furniture Company, but in 1895 resigned his position to enter the city police department as a patrolman. He became widely known to the citizens of the community as traffic officer at the corner of old Canal and Pearl streets, where he held his post for seven years, and was then selected by Clay H. Hollister as guard at the Old National Bank, where he remained nine years. His long experience as an officer and the ability that he had shown in handling those criminally inclined brought Mr. Berry forward as a reliable and efficient man for the shrievalty, and in 1914, when nominated on the Republican ticket, secured a large majority at the polls and was duly installed in office. During his first term as sheriff of Kent county he gave evidence of marked ability and a conscientious desire to rid the community of its criminal class, and his efforts met with such success that he gained and held the confidence of the Kent county people, who elected him to a second term in the Fall of 1916. His energetic and faithful work has abated not one whit, and his official record has made him decidedly and deservedly popular. Sheriff Berry is a man of marked courage, great

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



John Bertsch.

Hosted by Google

resource in his line of work, and of detective ability far above the ordinary. He belongs to the Swedish Lutheran church, is a member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, and is fraternally identified with the local lodges of the Masons, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World. He was married May 1, 1895, to Miss Anna Carlson, daughter of Carl and Anna Carlson, of Sweden, and they are the parents of four children, namely: Hazel Louise, Walter Charles, Fred Roger and Myrtle.

Charles Harley Bertsch, treasurer of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, is one of the younger generation of business men and has had a career of steady advancement. He was born at Grand Rapids, July 27, 1879, a son of John Bertsch, and received his education in the public schools of the city, following which he gained his first business experience in the employ of the Michigan Leather Company, with which he remained for nine years. He then transferred his services to the Cappon & Bertsch Leather Company, at Holland, Mich., but after two years there returned to Grand Rapids to assist in the organization and to assume the duties of his present position. Mr. Bertsch is essentially one of the men of action of Grand Rapids and one who is interested in many of the city's activities. He is a member of the board of directors of the Grand Rapids Building and Loan Association, belongs to the Association of Commerce and the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, and for six years was secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association. He has been on the official board of stewards of the First Methodist Episcopal church for twelve years, and in his political views he is a Republican. In Masonry he has taken the York and Scottish Rite degrees and is a Shriner, and his social connections include membership in the O-Wash-ta-nong Club and the Highlands Country Club. He was married Nov. 28, 1912, to Lucile A., daughter of Oscar B. Wilmarth, of Grand Rapids, and they have three children: Marion Louise, Ruth Adelaide, and John Wilmarth.

John Bertsch, late president of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company, who died at his home in Grand Rapids, Sept. 29, 1917, was a resident of Grand Rapids for sixty-three years, with the exception of three years spent at Holland, and during the greater part of this long period was identified with business affairs of large magnitude. He was born at Phillipsburg, Beaver county, Pennsylvania, Feb. 9, 1834, a son of Christopher Bertsch, who came to Grand Rapids in 1864 and died in the following year. The education of John Bertsch was secured in the public schools of Ohio, to which state he had been taken when a lad, and when eighteen years of age he began to learn the trade of tanner, which he followed for some years. When he came to Grand Rapids, in 1854, it was as a journeyman tanner and for two years he worked at his trade in this city, then going to Holland, Mich., where he remained until 1860. While at Holland he had started a tannery, but on his return to Grand Rapids he embarked in the shoe business, and in this industry continued successfully for many years. In 1897 he built a tannery and founded the Michigan Leather Company, but in 1906 disposed of his interests therein and in the following year assisted in the incorporation and organization of the firm of Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company. He was variously and prominently connected with the business life of Grand Rapids,

Hosted by Google

was the builder of the Michigan Hardware Company building, and was a stockholder in the Globe Knitting Works. Mr. Bertsch always placed a due valuation upon honor, integrity and determination. Possessing these qualities as capital, he entered upon his business career, and during the course of years that followed won for himself a notable name and an enviable place in Grand Rapids business circles, proving his worth by capable management and careful direction of his affairs which constituted an element in the city's development as well as in his personal success. Mr. Bertsch may be designated as a pioneer of Grand Rapids, coming here as he did in 1854, at which time he found a struggling town, eager for greatness, but with comparatively little system as to development and improvement. He lived to see it come into its own as a great manufacturing city and as the home of thriving, prosperous concerns in every branch of industry. Mr. Bertsch was a Republican, but his energies were expended rather in the direction of business than public affairs, and politics had but a small place in his life. He was married first in 1862, being united with Miss Agnes Cartwright, of Grand Rapids, who died without issue. Mr. Bertsch was again married, May 5, 1875, being united with Miss Caroline L. Harley, of Defiance, Ohio, and they became the parents of five children: Amy, wife of David H. Brown, of Grand Rapids; Miss Nellie, who resides with her mother; William Frederick, born Oct. 23, 1877, died April 21, 1898; C. Harley, treasurer of Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company; and Florence, the wife of C. A. Ayers, secretary of the Barclay, Ayers & Bertsch Company.

John W. Bickert became chief musician of the Thirty-second Michigan band in 1910, and band leader in 1916. He was with the band at the encampment at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis; at Port Huron, Ludington and Grayling, and led the band during four weeks of service in the upper peninsula during the strike of 1913. With the band he left for Grayling, June 23, 1916, and reached El Paso July 18, where he remained on duty until Jan. 18, 1917, leaving Fort Wayne for the return to Grand Rapids on Feb. 15, 1917. While on the border the band was employed to hearten the soldiers, and made ninety-mile trips in motor trucks to play for the various companies. Mr. Bickert was born in Hessen Cassel, Germany, Oct. 11, 1866, son of Karl and Elizabeth (Moller) Bickert. He came to Canada in 1871 and learned the trade of a shoemaker. He first came to the United States in 1892. Throughout his youth he had shown marked musical talent and soon became known as a band director. In this capacity he was employed at Buffalo, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Chicago and other cities, coming to Grand Rapids in 1900. His military band service began when he enlisted from the Wellesley county band at Berlin, Canada, and entered the band of the Twenty-ninth battalion of Canada volunteers, one of the best bands in Ontario. At Buffalo he was with the Sixty-fifth New York regimental band; at Detroit, with the Pingree and Smith band, and director of the Steel and Spring Works band. At Ravenna he directed the Pythian band, and at Rossville was instructor of the City band and the Ladies' band. At Grand Rapids he made music his sole occupation, directing and instructing the Street Railway, Pere Marquette, Sacred Heart, Polish Casino and the battalion bands, and also giving instructions at Wayland, Dorr, Casnovia and Walker, being instructor of seven bands

Hosted by Google

when called to military service. He was married Dec. 27, 1915, to Josephine Dominich. Not only is he a man of great musical ability, but he is a capable instructor and is both respected and beloved by the men under his charge. Karl G. Bischoff, the assistant leader, is a son of Rudolph and Anna (Schuur) Bischoff, and was born in Grand Rapids and educated in the Grand Rapids schools. He began earning his way in life as a newsboy, and as his love of music developed, became president of the Press Newsboys' band, heading that organization for eight years, and learning the printer's trade. He is an expert trombone player, in which capacity he has been connected with various musical organizations. He was married June 27, 1917, to Elizabeth Papke, and left his bride to serve his country.

Lee Hutchins Bierce. — The second largest city in Michigan, Grand Rapids has for many years been accepted as one of the industrial centers of the country. Its geographical location and trade advantages make it undoubtedly one of the greatest manufacturing communities in the Middle West, and its rapid growth along this and kindred lines has been largely due to the ceaseless energies of men interested in its business prestige who have worked for its advancement. Much of the work of these successful men who during the past score of years have utilized the business opportunities found at Grand Rapids would have been ineffective without the factor of cooperation. And it is in this connection that the Association of Commerce has played so important a part. This association has been fortunate during its existence that it has had for its officers men of ability and experience who have caused its machinery to work smoothly and without hitch and who have builded its structure upon a firm and solid foundation. One of the officials of this organization who has done much for its success is the present secretary, Lee Hutchins Bierce, a man still young in years but with a wealth of experience. Mr. Bierce is a Detroiter by nativity, born Aug. 22, 1881, in the Wolverine metropolis, and his education was received in the public schools there, he being graduated in the Central High School in 1900, as president of his class. He then secured a clerkship with the Pere Marquette railroad, in the general offices at Detroit, and his close application, constant industry, general ability and absolute fidelity won him rapid promotion, so that at the end of four years he was sent to Grand Rapids as assistant car distributor of the Grand Rapids division. Mr. Bierce remained with this line until November, 1908, when he was chosen as secretary of the Winona (Minn.) Merchants' & Business Association, a capacity in which he acted for three years, and Jan. 16, 1912, he returned to Grand Rapids and became assistant secretary of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. On Jan. 1, 1917, he was made secretary of this body in recognition of his splendid services, and his record in the new office has been one characterized by steadfast work and achievements of no mean order. As befits one of Mr. Bierce's special abilities, he has identified himself in a helpful way with various movements connected with civic advancement and the betterment of general conditions. He is a member of the Social Welfare Association, has been one of the busiest of the members of the Anti-Tuberculosis League, and has recently affiliated himself with the Big Brothers movement, in which he has taken an active and helpful interest. With his family, he belongs to the

Hosted by Google

Fountain Street Baptist church, where he is president of the class of Applied Christianity. His social relations include membership in the O-Wash-ta-nong club, the Rotary club, the Point Nip'O'Gon Resort club, York Lodge, F. & A. M., and the Peninsular club. Mr. Bierce married Miss Florence Josephine Webster, of Detroit, Mich., and they are the parents of two children—John Hutchins and Alice Jane.

Melville R. Bissell.—Many of the men who contributed to the early prestige of Grand Rapids, which made possible the marvelous development which came later, have long since passed away, and but few of those who came here in the '60s are remembered in more than an ordinary way. However, there are some whose contributions to the city's greatness have been of such a character that their memories are kept green and their names are still household words, and among these was the late Melville R. Bissell. While nearly thirty years have gone by since Mr. Bissell passed on to that bourne from which no man returns, he is still remembered as the perfector of the carpet sweeper, and the factory which bears his name in this connection, at Grand Rapids, is the largest in the world in its line. Mr. Bissell was born at Hartwick, Otsego county, New York, Sept. 25, 1843, and was five years old when his parents removed to the West, the family settling at DePere, Wis., where they remained for about three years. The next home of the family was at Berlin, Wis., where Mr. Bissell received his education in the public schools, and at the age of seventeen years he gave up his studies. In 1862 he left for Kalamazoo, Mich., where he embarked in the grocery business, crockery subsequently being added to his stock. In 1869 Mr. Bissell came to Grand Rapids, which was destined to be the scene of his future success, his initial line being the crockery business, in which he won much prosperity. Among the many articles of household furniture which were handled by Mr. Bissell was an old-fashioned carpet sweeper. For some time he had noted that there was a serious defect in the old style of sweeper, but had been unable to come to the conclusion as to what this defect was. However, one day while exhibiting it to a prospective customer, he suddenly discovered that the fault lay in the adjustment of the brush, saw the solution of the problem that had bothered him, and soon made his first invention, upon which he was granted a patent in 1876. After this on several occasions he made improvements on his sweeper, which became generally recognized as the best and most complete upon the market. A company was formed, with Mr. Bissell at its head, the business was enlarged several times over, and its product found a ready welcome in every market in the world. By 1884 the business had assumed tremendous proportions, and when the factory was entirely destroyed in a great conflagration, it was immediately rebuilt with greatly increased facilities for manufacture. From that time to the present the business has shown a steady and constant gain and the Grand Rapids factory of the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company is now the largest of its kind in the world. Mr. Bissell was one of the men who had the foresight to note the great possibilities lying in the handling of Grand Rapids real estate. Soon after coming to the city he began to deal in realty, and his operations therein gained him large profits. He always had faith in the future development and prosperity of his city, and this

Hosted by Google

confidence was repaid substantially. In 1888 Mr. Bissell established the Standard Stock Farm, at Reed's Lake, where he expected to spend many happy hours in the humoring of a hobby. However, he did not live long to enjoy this experiment, as his death occurred when he was only forty-five years of age, March 15, 1889. His life, while short, had been a crowded one, full of success and marked by more than ordinary achievement. As a citizen he had helped his city to grow and develop, not only through the medium of the product of which he was the originator, but by his support of good and beneficial civic movements and educational and charitable enterprises. A member and regular attendant of the Methodist church, he took an active part in its work, and was for many years superintendent of the Sunday school. In 1865 Mr. Bissell was united in marriage with Miss Anna Sutherland, of De Pere, Wis., and they became the parents of five children: Mrs. Dorothy A. McCay, of Pasadena, Calif.; Melville R., of Grand Rapids; Harvey S., of La Centra, Calif.; Irving J., of Grand Rapids, and Lillie May died at the age of seven years.

Frank I. Blake.—A member of the Grand Rapids bar since 1899 and a man who has identified himself in various ways with the life of the city, Frank I. Blake has incorporated the two characters of lawyer and citizen into a high personal combination which has been generally adjudged an example worthy of emulation. While engaged in an important and busy practice, he has always used his fine legal talents in the furtherance of what he has believed to be best for the general welfare. Mr. Blake was born at Saugatuck, Mich., Feb. 1, 1864, of Scotch-Irish parentage, and has resided in Michigan nearly all his life. After securing his primary education, he taught in the schools of Branch and Hillsdale counties, Michigan, for five years, and following this enrolled as a student at the Northern Indiana Normal School, Valparaiso, Ind., in which he was duly graduated. After three years of study and one year's lecture course at the University of Michigan, he was admitted to the bar of Michigan in 1888. Mr. Blake was engaged, with others, by the Leslie publications to gather data for articles for publication and for a history of the World's Columbian Exposition, at Chicago, in 1893, and in that same year was admitted to practice in the courts of the State of Oregon, subsequently practicing his profession at Portland for some time. Following this he traveled extensively in the West and Northwest and in Alaska, until 1898, during most of which time he followed his professional calling, and in the year mentioned returned to Michigan and in 1899 permanently settled at Grand Rapids, where he has since been engaged in a lucrative practice. Mr. Blake has a keen, vigorous and alert mind, is a close student and a tireless worker, and keeps pace with the rapidly moving and ever-widening current of the law. His offices are located at 229-230 Houseman building and his home at 665 Kellogg street, Southeast. Mr. Blake was married to Florence M. Bennett, and they are the parents of five children: Alice J., who has for some years been her father's assistant, taking care of the pension business that comes to his office; Jean Mildred, at home; Reuel Russell and Roswell, twins, who have joined the United States army as members of the Michigan field hospital service, and Harold R., at home.

Hosted by Google

William J. Blake.—In the fertile township of Gaines, Kent county's agricultural interests have a capable representative in the person of William J. Blake, whose well-cultivated property is located in section 2. Mr. Blake is one of the men who have made their own in the world and who, unaided, have attained success and position, for when he started upon his career he had only determination and ambition as available assets, his inherent abilities being developed through experience. He is a native of County Norfolk, Ontario, Canada, and was born Nov. 27, 1876, a son of Benjamin and Mary Ann (Smith) Blake. His father was born in England, and as a lad of eighteen years emigrated to Canada, where for some time he worked at the trade of butcher, which he had learned in his native country. After his marriage he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, buying a farm of seventy-five acres, and is still a resident of Canada, where he is now a man of some means, gained through industry and intelligent handling of his affairs. He belongs to the Methodist Episcopal faith and has been very active in the work of that faith. By a previous marriage Mrs. Blake had a daughter, Lettie, now Mrs. James Kitchen, of Conneaut, Ohio. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Blake: William J.; Caroline, wife of Wesley Card, of Canada; Charles Roy, and Eva, who is living near London, England. William J. Blake divided his boyhood and youth between attending the public schools and assisting his father in the cultivation of the home farm, but when he was nineteen years of age he left the parental roof and came to Dutton, Mich., where he secured employment in the mercantile establishment of his uncle. After a short experience there he went to Grand Rapids and for two and one-half years was employed by Clark, Jewel & Wells, but eventually returned to farming, establishing himself on the Charles H. Deming farm, which belonged to them. Of this he purchased eighty acres, but later sold off thirty-six and subsequently bought 157 acres from the same owners. Mr. Blake's operations have been largely of a general character, but he has overlooked no opportunity to improve his finances and standing, and has met with success in dairying, and as a breeder of Percheron horses, registered, from France, and another feature of his activities is the raising of Shorthorn cattle. If this success may be cited as evidence of his ability, it may be said that he is one of the really skilled and capable farmers and stock growers of Gaines township, and that he possesses business acumen and judgment beyond the ordinary. In the building up of a handsome country estate, Mr. Blake has left nothing undone in the way of modern buildings, improvements and equipment, and many of his fellow-townsmen could profit by using his property as a model upon which to base their own operations. Mr. Blake is a Prohibitionist and has always warmly supported the candidates who have included a temperance plank in their platforms. He has also been active in the work of the United Brethren church, and at this time is a class leader and a member of the board of trustees. He was married May 23, 1900, to Lillie, daughter of Charles H. and Mary (Knapp) Denning, and four children have been born to them: Olive, Floy, Donald and Russell, all at home. Mr. Denning was a native of Massachusetts and Mrs. Denning was born in Kent county, Michigan. He came to Michigan as a small boy with his parents. He is now retired, living in Dutton. His

Hosted by Google

children, ten in number, are all living. Mr. Denning first married Nancy Hammond, second, Mary Knapp, and after her death, which occurred in January, 1901, he married Clara Benneway.

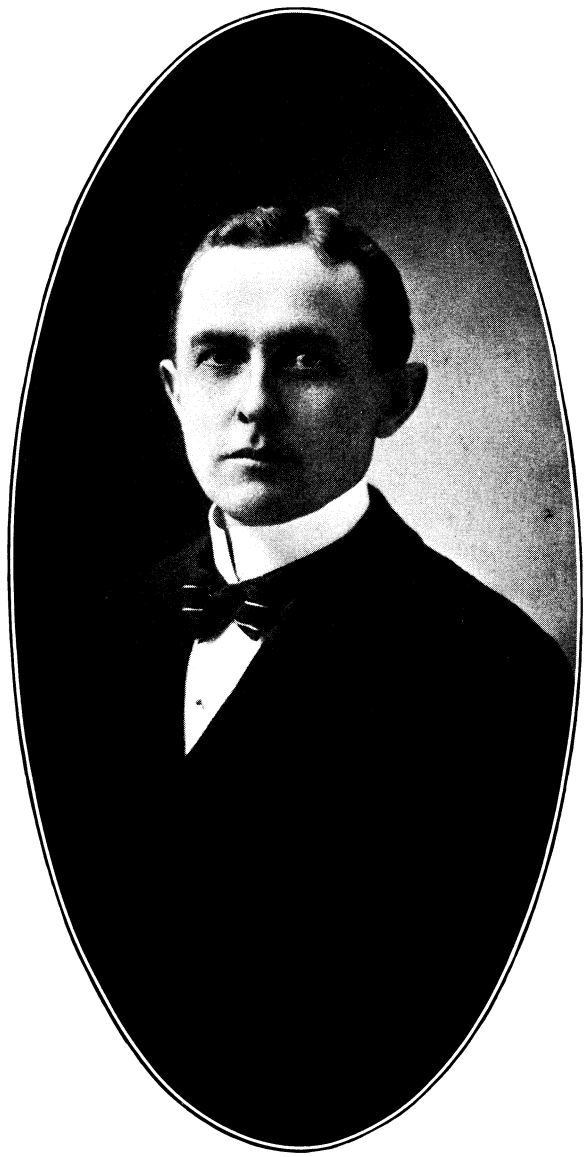
Thomas J. Blanchard.—Naturally, an individual's success in life is measured by the standard of what he attains in prestige in business, social and political circles, and when he figures prominently in all three it may be assumed that his career has been crowned with prosperity. Among the residents of Sand Lake who have thus attained their goal in life, Thomas J. Blanchard has made himself a recognized place. He has been engaged in a number of business ventures, in all of which his abilities have brought him to the forefront, he has served acceptably in positions of public importance, and in social matters is accorded the respect and esteem demanded by those who have led careers of integrity and fidelity. Mr. Blanchard was born on a farm in Eaton township, Carroll county, New York, Feb. 21, 1863. His father, George S. Blanchard, who was an agriculturist, passed his entire life in the Granite state, where he died in 1905, and Thomas J. Blanchard was reared on the home place, his education being secured in the district schools of his native township. His schooling ceased when he was fourteen years of age, and for about four years which followed he continued to assist his father, but at that time the call of the West became too strong, and in 1881 the youth came to Michigan to seek success. In that year he purchased a farm not far from Sand Lake, in Kent county, but after three years of tilling the soil disposed of his interests therein and purchased the undertaking business of H. L. Carter, at Sand Lake. He soon developed a first-class establishment and gained the confidence of the people, and after a short period added the hardware business to his activities, in connection therewith dealing in agricultural implements, in which line he soon built up a good business among the farmers of this part of the county. As the years passed he became more and more impressed with the future of this section and began dealing in real estate, in which line he has continued to the present time, having been the medium through which some large deals have been consummated. He continues to conduct his undertaking establishment, which is considered one of the old and reliable houses of the county, and is also operating a large stock farm, where his preferred stock is Holstein cattle, he having at this time a large number of the animals. Mr. Blanchard married Mary Martin, of Sand Lake, daughter of James Martin, of Howell, Mich., and of this union there have been born the following children: Edith, Eva (1), deceased; Arthur, a graduate of Albion College, and for four years a teacher at Crystal Falls, is now enlisted in the United States army, he is also an undertaker and was engaged with the Glenn undertaking establishment at Cedar Springs; Roy, who was called into the United States army and is now in service; Sylvia; Eva (2); Ernest, who enlisted in the United States army and is now in service; Mildred, who is deceased, and Margaret, Juniatta and Wells, who reside at home and are attending school. Mr. Blanchard has been variously prominent in the civic affairs of Sand Lake. He has shown himself public-spirited in the support of progressive movements, willingly giving of his time and abilities in their furtherance, has been a member of the school board for a period of twenty years, and has also served as president of the

Hosted by Google

village. Politically, he is a Democrat, while fraternally he is affiliated with Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M.

Christian Blickley.—There is perhaps, with the exception of honesty, no other quality so in demand in the business world of today as practicality. Energy, initiative, resource, push and rapid and sure decision are desirable requisites, but without the balancing power of practicality they frequently lead to disaster instead of success. The late Christian Blickley was the fortunate possessor of this quality in marked degree. There was no element of chance in the success which he achieved; on the other hand, it was the inevitable result of what the man put of himself into his work. No fortunate chance gave him any advantage; he merely set himself a goal and worked toward it unerringly and undeviatingly. Mr. Blickley was a native son of Grand Rapids, born Feb. 2, 1857, and his entire life was passed within the limits of the city, save for a short period when he was gaining his education. His parents were Jacob and Magdalene (Kalmbach) Blickley, natives of Wurttemburg, Germany, who came to the United States as young people, were married at Detroit, and very soon thereafter took up their residence at Grand Rapids. The father, a mason by trade, was an industrious and ambitious man. He died at Grand Rapids in 1893, having lived retired for thirteen years previous to his death, while Mrs. Blickley survived him until 1900. Both were charter members of the German Methodist Episcopal church, and were highly esteemed and greatly respected. They were the parents of three children: Lena, who is the widow of William Fink, of Grand Rapids; Jacob, who died as a child; and Christian. Christian Blickley attended the public schools of Grand Rapids as a boy, following which he went to the German-Wallace College, at Berea, Ohio, and then took a commercial course in the Swensburg Business College, His first experience in commercial affairs was gained with the firm of H. Leonard & Sons, merchants of Grand Rapids, with which concern he was connected until 1888, in that year embarking in the crockery business on his own account. His practical ideas, combined with other qualities, not the least of which was an inherent ability for business, soon brought results and Mr. Blickley built up a trade that was representative in character and remunerative in results. While thus engaged, he became interested in real estate, rcognizing the opportunities in Grand Rapids realty, but here again his practicality asserted itself, for instead of rushing into any wild-cat speculation, he carefully invested his capital in safe holdings, being content to take a reasonable amount of profit. Thus he built up an attractive business in realty. In this he continued to be engaged until his early death, Aug. 13, 1911. Mr. Blickley built up an excellent reputation for integrity and probity of character, and his friendships were many and sincere in the business world. In 1901 his mercantile interests were destroyed by the collapsing and burning of the Luce building, in which he conducted his business. He was a Republican in his political views, but not a politician; belonged to the Modern Woodmen of America, and was a member of the German Methodist Episcopal church, in which he served as deacon and trustee. He was married May 19, 1885, to Talitha, daughter of John F. and Eva Margaret (Huss) Miller, of Detroit, Mich., and of this union there were born six children: Elmer C., of Grand Rapids; Arthur E., who died in in-

Hosted by Google





Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



D. A. Blodgett

Hosted by Google

fancy; Talitha M., who is the wife of James Donald McCormick, of Chicago; Agnes M. and Esther, who reside with their widowed mother at No. 343 Wealthy street, S. E., and Ruth, who died in infancy.

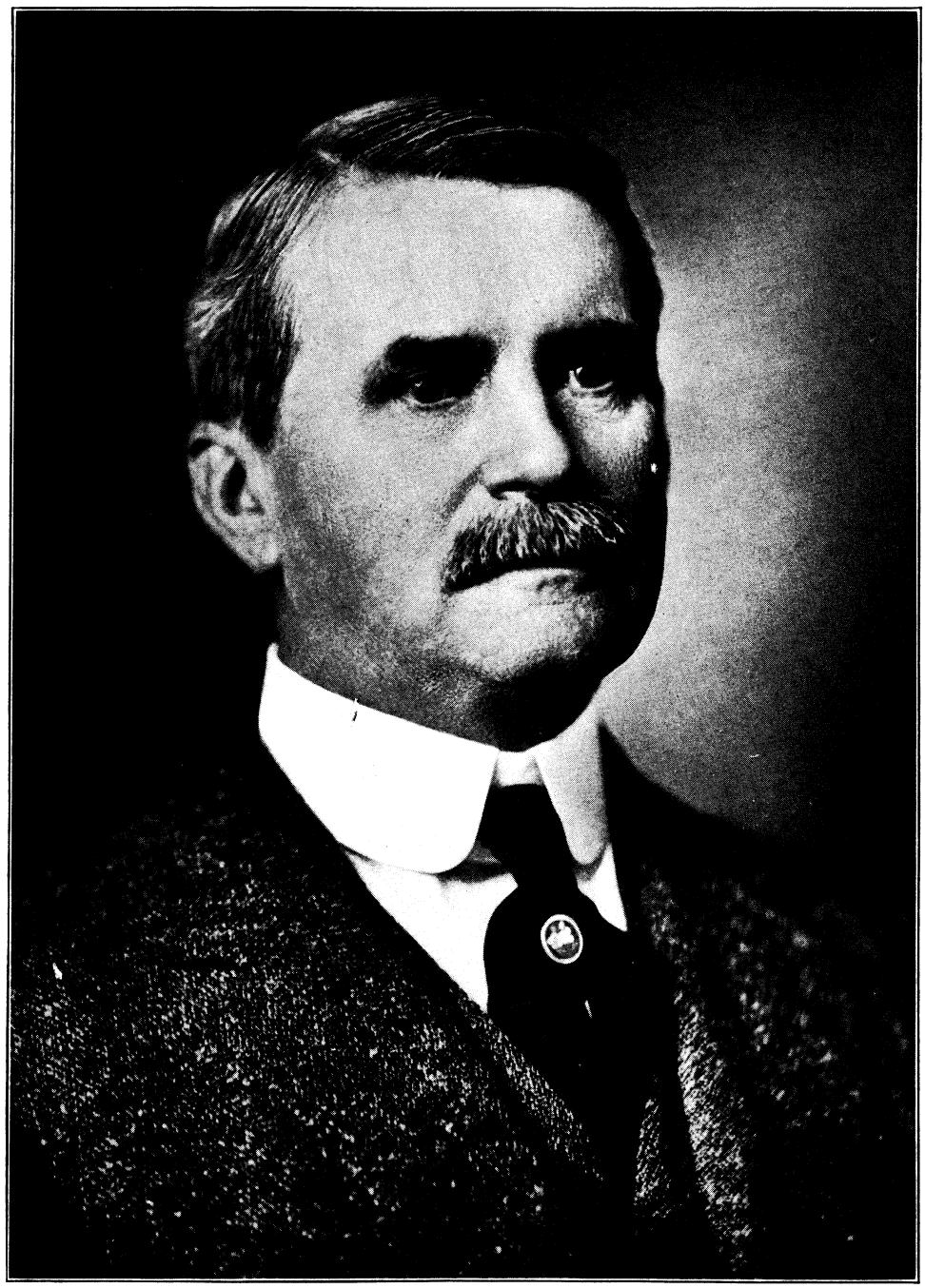
John W. Blodgett.—Among the family names that bring to mind the suggestion of progressive enterprise and civic helpfulness in Grand Rapids there is none of more prominence than that of Blodgett, and the present manager of the large Blodgett interests has not only maintained but has materially added to the prestige of the family. John W. Blodgett is a son of Delos A. and Jennie S. (Wood) Blodgett. The father, Delos A. Blodgett, was born in Otsego county, New York, March 3, 1825, his parents being Abiel D. and Susan (Richmond) Blodgett. When Delos A. was but four years old these parents moved to Erie county, New York, where the son received his early education. In 1845 he made a trip to the South, going down the Allegheny, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, to New Orleans. While he was absent his parents removed to McHenry, Ill., and in 1847 Delos A. rejoined them at that place; and he attended a district school at Geneva, Wis., the following Winter. In the Spring of 1848 he went on foot to Chicago, where he secured a position in the sawmill of Reed & McKegg, located at Masonville, Mich., a place which was then called Little Bay-de-Noquit. A few months later Mr. Blodgett entered the employ of Henry Knickerbocker, a prominent lumberman at Muskegon, Mich., and he officiated as foreman of the camp until July, 1850. In the Autumn of that year he formed a partnership with Thomas D. Stimson and located a tract of land in Clare county, on a small tributary of the Muskegon river. This partnership continued until 1854, when it was dissolved, but Mr. Blodgett continued to locate tracts and cut the timber thereon. In 1851 he cleared a tract in Osceola county and planted the first potatoes in a region that has since become somewhat famous in the production of the tuber. In 1858 he built a saw and grist mill at Hersey, and it was the first industry of the kind in that section. He established a mill at Muskegon and operated it until 1893, when the timber in that part of the state became practically exhausted. Mr. Blodgett became a resident of Grand Rapids in 1881, continuing in the lumber business, and for a time he had as a partner, Thomas Bryne, who is given more extended mention on another page of this volume. He became a stockholder in the Fourth National Bank and was president of that institution for a number of years. He was also a stockholder in the old Kent Savings Bank, and he built the Blodgett building at the corner of Ottawa avenue and Louis street. Among his other vast financial interests, he was a stockholder in the Lumberman's National Bank and the Muskegon Savings Bank at Muskegon and the Preston National Bank at Detroit. He was an incorporator of the Grand Rapids Fire Insurance Agency and an active member of the State Agricultural Society and of the West Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Society, his interest in these movements being increased by the ownership of several large farms. He continued actively engaged in business until 1900, when, at the age of seventy-five years, he retired. His political views were in accord with the Republican party and he served as delegate-at-large to its national conventions in 1892 and 1896. In his religious ideas he was considered an agnostic, being a warm personal friend of Robert G. Ingersoll and of Charles

Hosted by Google

Watts, the noted English lecturer, but he gave liberally to the support of churches and upon one occasion paid the existing debts of each of the three colored churches in the city of Grand Rapids. He was a liberal contributor to all worthy charitable movements and gave to the city the Blodgett Children's Home, the cost of which was $150,000. Mr. Blodgett was married Sept. 9, 1859, to Miss Jennie S. Wood, of Woodstock, Ill., and she died in 1890, the mother of two children—John W. and Mrs. Edward Lowe, both residents of Grand Rapids. On June 3, 1893, Mr. Blodgett married Miss Daisy Peck, daughter of Prof. William H. Peck, of Atlanta, Ga., and she survives him, as do also the three children born of this union—Helen, Delos A., and Mona P. John W. Blodgett, whose name introduces this review, was born in Osceola county, Michigan, July 26, 1860. He received his preliminary education in the country schools and later attended the Highlands Military Academy at Worcester, Mass. He also attended a boys' boarding school near Chicago, Ill., and took a course in Swensburg's Business College in Grand Rapids. He commenced his business career in 1878, in the office of a saw-mill at Muskegon, continuing there until 1890, when he took charge of his father's business in Grand Rapids. About 1885 he became president of the Muskegon Booming Company, which concern was the most extensive dealer in saw logs in the world, handling from 400,000,000 to 600,000,000 feet of logs per year. This business was continued until 1893, when the timber in that district became exhausted. About 1905 the Blodgett Company, Ltd., was organized. Mr. Blodgett is a Republican in his political affiliations and for twelve years has served as the Michigan member of the Republican National Committee. He is a personal friend of ex-President William H. Taft. He is a member of the Peninsular, Kent County, Chicago and the Grand Rapids Curling clubs, and also of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. Among his many civic and charitable acts was the giving of $250,000 to the United Benevolent Association of Grand Rapids for the construction of the Blodgett Memorial Hospital, in memory of his mother. The hospital was completed in 1916, at a cost of $750,000, and it is an institution in which every citizen of Grand Rapids has a commendable pride. Mr. Blodgett was married Jan. 16, 1895, to Miss Minnie A. Cumnock, of Lowell, Mass., and of this union there are two children—Katherine, who is a student at Vassar College, and John W., Jr., a student in St. Mark's school at Boston, Mass.

Eugene Boise, M. D.—For forty-six years Dr. Eugene Boise has engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Grand Rapids, and through this period his skill and ability have been so marked as to win him recognition as one of the most careful and conscientious representatives of the profession in Kent county. There is no calling or business which imposes greater responsibility upon its followers, for life and death are in the hands of the physician, and that Dr. Boise enjoys the complete and unquestioned confidence of his large practice and has so held it during such a long period of years is a fact indicative of the standing which he enjoys in the community as well as in the ranks of his calling. Dr. Boise was born at Wellington, Lorain county, Ohio, Nov. 29, 1846. He received his early education in the public schools of his native place, and when a young man de-

Hosted by Google



EUGENE BOISE, M.D.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

termined upon the medical profession as the calling to which he was to devote his life's activities. After some further preparation, he entered Oberlin College, which famous institution he attended from 1863 to 1867, taking a complete classical course, and then took up his medical studies in earnest in the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was graduated with the class of 1869 and the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Still not satisfied with his training, he went to New York, where he attended the medical department of Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, completing a one-year course in 1870, and immediately thereafter began gaining his practical experience at the New York Charity Hospital, where he spent twelve months as interne. This was followed by six months of work in the same capacity and as head of the Fever Hospital, another charitable institution of New York City, but in 1871 he resumed his studies, leaving this country and going to Vienna, Austria, where he took post-graduate work in the medical department of the University of Vienna. Returning to this country in 1872, in that year Dr. Boise located at Grand Rapids, where he began practice in association with Dr. G. K. Johnson. This professional partnership proved so satisfactory and mutually agreeable that it continued to exist for a period of thirty-three years, and was then only terminated by the retirement of the elder man. Since 1905, Dr. Boise has been engaged in practice alone and the size and importance of his clientele has grown apace. He belongs to the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and is a fellow of the Gynecological College and a member of the Gynecological Society. With his family, he attends the Park Congregational church, and among his social connections is membership in the Kent Country club. Dr. Boise is possessed of more than passing literary talent, has written a number of authoritative papers upon subjects in the line of his profession, and is advisory editor on the medical profession of Kent county as included in this work. To comment more fully upon his work seems unnecessary, for he is as well known to the people of Grand Rapids and of Kent county as any other of their prominent men, and to his profession as one of its most able exponents. A man of broad ideas, comprehensive knowledge and varied ability, he has put to good use the talents he has possessed and given to the world gifts of skill and scientific research not easily requited. Dr. Boise was married Nov. 30, 1875, to Miss Eva Lamont, daughter of Emmet Lamont, of Grand Rapids, and they have one son, Edward B., who is a successful attorney-at-law in New York City.

Hon. Lucius Manlius Boltwood, son of Lucius and Fanny Haskins (Shepard) Boltwood, was born in Amherst, Mass., June 8, 1825. His studies preparatory to college were from 1834 to 1839, at Amherst Academy. He graduated at Amherst College in 1843, and at Andover Theological Seminary in 1847. From 1852 to 1863 he was librarian of Amherst College; from 1861 to 1865, postmaster at Amherst; from 1867 to 1868, assistant librarian in the Congressional Library at Washington, D. C.; from 1868 to 1875, librarian of the Young Men's Institute at Hartford, Conn. In 1859-60 he was a member of the Massachusetts Senate from the Hampshire and Franklin district. In 1879 Mr. Boltwood removed to New Haven, in order to

Hosted by Google

give his sons a classical and legal education in Yale College. In 1895 Mr. Boltwood removed with his family to Grand Rapids, where he resided until his death, Feb. 28, 1905. He was chosen, in 1846, a corresponding member of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society; in 1852 a corresponding member of the New York Historical Society; in 1856 a corresponding member of the Connecticut Historical Society; in 1868 a resident member of the same society, of which, from 1868 to 1872, he was recording secretary; in 1858 an honorary member of the Vermont Historical Society; in 1859 an honorary member of the New Hampshire Historical Society; and he was invited, in 1876, to become a fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Great Britain. In 1900 he was elected a corresponding member of the Old Colony Historical Society. In 1863 he prepared and published the genealogical portion of Judd's History of Hadley, Mass. In 1878 he published his most notable work, the "History and Genealogy of the Noble Family in America," a volume of 870 pages. Mr. Boltwood was married June 6, 1860, to Clarinda Boardman Williams, daughter of Hinckley and Elvira Armenius (Wright) Williams, of Goshen, Mass. Their children were as follows: George Shepard, Lucius, Charles Wright, Fanny Haskins, and Elvira Wright.

Lewis J. Boulard.—To those who have never had the opportunity of visiting a modern Michigan farm and watching its industries being carefully and methodically carried on, it would be a decidedly interesting and enlightening experience to take a vacation trip through the rich farming districts of Kent county. They would find no better proof of intelligent, scientific cultivation of the soil and its marvelous effects in any section better demonstrated than in Bowne township, where, on section 9, is located the finely improved and highly cultivated farm of Lewis J. Boulard, who is one of the township's representative citizens and skilled agriculturists. Mr. Boulard has passed his entire life in the township of Bowne, having been born here on his father's farm, Feb. 10, 1854, a son of Martin and Louisa (Parrott) Boulard, the former a native of Belgium and the latter of France. Like others of his countrymen, Mr. Boulard, the elder, loved his native land passionately, but his ambition to make a success in life led him to emigrate to the United States as a youth of eighteen years, and at Detroit he secured a position in a drug store, where he worked for eight years. Following this, he began renting land in Lowell township, and after several years was able to purchase sixty acres of wild land in Bowne township, where he cleared a sufficient space upon which to build a small log cabin, and then settled down to the hard and monotonous work of making his land ready for crops. He was persevering and industrious, developed a good farm, to which he later added forty acres, and became one of the substantial men of his locality, living retired for a number of years prior to his demise. He was a Democrat politically and a faithful member of the Catholic church, regularly attending services at Caledonia. He and his wife were the parents of the following children: Emil J., of Mancelona, Mich.; Matilda, deceased; Lewis J., of this review; Louisa, who is his twin and resides at Lowell, in charge of the household duties in the home of Mrs. Jarvis Train; Sylvester, of Bowne township; Clamonsie, deceased; and Charley, who died at the age of four years. Lewis J. Boulard received a district school education and be-

Hosted by Google

gan his work as a farmer on the home place, assisting his father. At the time of the elder man's death he bought the interest of the other heirs to the estate and subsequently added 100 acres to the property, of which he has since sold off sixty acres. He has devoted himself to general farming, a field in which he has won a very satisfying success. Since taking over this property he has made numerous improvements, adding to the equipment, etc., and has shown himself a disciple of modern methods when found to be at the same time practical. He is a Democrat, and belongs to the Alto lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Boulard's business dealings have always been straightforward and above-board and for this reason his name is an honored one on commercial paper. He was married Feb. 22, 1874, to Edith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Warner, of Bowne township, both now deceased. Three children have been born of this union: Percy L., train dispatcher for the G. R. & I. railroad at Grand Rapids, who married Jessie Soules and has one son, Richard; Ethel, who resides at home; and Jesse W., who is his father's assistant on the home farm. He married Alla Woods and has a daughter, Thelma.

Elias Clemens Bowman.—Gaines township boasts of some of the most productive soil to be found within the borders of Kent county, but its agricultural prowess has not relied alone upon the fertility of the land, for equally due to the credit are the progressive, practical and energetic men who are tilling properties here. One of the old and honored farmers belonging to this class, who has developed one of the handsome tracts of the township, lying in section 27, is Elias Clemens Bowman, whose long connection with agricultural affairs has made him widely known to the people of his section. Mr. Bowman was born in the township of Waterloo, County Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Jan. 1, 1847, and is a son of Elias and Mary (Clemens) Bowman. The family of which he is a member traces its ancestry back to one Wendell Bowman, who emigrated from Switzerland to America in 1729 and, settling in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, took up 530 acres of land. In 1731 he took up 300 acres additional, and in 1735 letters of administration were granted to Benjamin Bowman, who, in 1738, distributed the land among the heirs. The farm of Benjamin Bowman has been in the family name for 128 years. The descendants of Benjamin Bowman were seven sons, of whom three removed to Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and the branch of the family of which Elias C. Bowman is a member is descended from the Rev. Christian Bowman, a Mennonite minister, who was the possessor of a Bible in which many old family records were kept. This valuable old religious volume is now in the possession of Israel Bowman, a cousin of Elias C. Elias Bowman, father of Elias C., was born May 28, 1809, in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, and was seven years of age when he accompanied his parents to Canada. There he was reared and educated, grew to manhood on a farm, and as a youth engaged in the vocation of his forefathers, that of the husbandman. When he felt that he had obtained a start, he was married to Mary Clemens, who was born July 12, 1811, and they settled down on a farm and there their children were born. Mr. and Mrs. Bowman came to Michigan in 1863, on Feb. 26 of which year they purchased 120 acres of land in Caledonia township, Kent county. This was cov-

Hosted by Google

ered with timber and brush, but soon was cleared under the energetic management of this worthy couple and their industrious children, and later 120 acres and 220 acres were added to the home property. These were also cleared and cultivated, but later some of this land was sold off, and at the time of his death the father was the owner of 360 acres, represented by three tracts of 120 acres each. Mr. Bowman was one of the substantial and influential citizens of his community, who was held in high regard and esteem, was a Republican in his political views, and a faithful member of the Mennonite church. In his sixty-sixth year, after a full and successful life, he suffered a stroke of apoplexy, and his death followed soon thereafter, Aug. 1, 1875. Mrs. Bowman, also a member of the Mennonite church and a woman of many worthy Christian virtues, survived him until May 28, 1886, and was nearly seventy-five years old when she died. The family was an exceptionally healthy one, and the first death therein occurred when their youngest son was fourteen years old. The children were: Joseph C., Jacob C., Susanna, Wendell C. and Aaron C., all of whom are deceased; Mrs. Maria Kolb, a resident of Canada; Leah, Isaac and Owen C., all deceased; Elias C., of this notice; Salome and Catherine, deceased; Nancy, who is the wife of Owen Dodge and resides in Kent county; and Simon, a resident of Everett, Wash. Elias C. Bowman was educated in the district schools of his native locality and as a youth farmed for his father, both in Canada and in Michigan. When he was ready to engage in activities on his own account he located on a farm of 120 acres, on which no improvements had been made, situated in Gaines township. Here he has continued to carry on general farming to the present time, and what was once an undeveloped tract of non-producing land is now one of the valuable and highly useful producing properties of the township. Mr. Bowman has kept pace with the advancements made in agriculture and is accounted one of the progressive men of his vocation, but he is also highly practical by nature and adopts innovations only when they have proved worthy. He is a member of the Caledonia Creamery & Shippers' Company and is interested in the various movements that make for mutual benefit and community welfare. A Republican in politics, he is not a politician or office seeker, but has served acceptably in the position of pathmaster. Mr. Bowman was married Aug. 20, 1879, to Henrietta Stengel, born June 9, 1857, in Canada, daughter of George and Margaret (Guggenmos) Stengel. Mr. Stengel, who was born in Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, emigrated in young manhood to County Ontario, Canada, where he engaged in farming and hotel keeping during the remainder of his life, never coming to the United States. He was married in Canada to Margaret Guggenmos, who was born at Durshel, Alsace, and came to Canada with her parents as a young woman. Both Mr. and Mrs. Stengel are deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Bowman there were born four children: Alton S., born July 7, 1880, is manager of the City Telephone Company, of Caledonia, married Grace Howard, who was born in Ohio; Audie, born June 1, 1882, married Allen E. Roberts, who was born in Ohio, and they live near Oberlin, Mich.; Randall B., born April 6, 1886, is engaged in farming for his father; and Arthur V., born Aug. 29, 1891, is also farming for his father, married Hazel Brewer, of Gaines township.

Hosted by Google

Jonathan Boyce.—While the late Jonathan Boyce did not come to Grand Rapids to make his home until 1880, after he had attained a substantial and recognized position in the world of successful business men, when he did come he took his place among the honored and useful citizens of the city and during the remainder of his life did much to foster and promulgate his adopted community's growth and welfare. He was the type of man who makes his own way and asks no assistance from others, yet of his own favors and help he was extremely liberal, not alone as an individual looking to aid those less fortunate than himself, but also as one who felt a certain duty to the locality in which he lived. Mr. Boyce was born at Tivetshall, St. Mary's, County Norfolk, England, Sept. 28, 1827, son of Edward and Esther (Champlin) Boyce. His education was that received by English boys of his day and station in life, and when he was eighteen years of age he decided to try his fortunes in the United States, of the opportunities in which country he had received such glowing reports. For the first five years after his arrival Mr. Boyce was variously employed in different communities, but in 1845 located at Muskegon, Mich., which city was to be his home for some time and was to be the scene of his first success. His entrance was not auspicious nor was his start, for he had little or no capital and his first employment was in a lumber mill. There he learned the business, saved his money and acquired a small working account, and eventually, in company with Mathew Wilson, erected a mill of his own. After several years of successful business partnership, the association was dissolved, Mr. Boyce disposing of his interest to Mr. Wilson. His next venture was the erection of a large mill at Michigan City, Ind., in the erection of which he showed his initiative and resource; and when he found that he would have trouble in getting his product marketed, he did not allow it to worry him, but set about building his own freighters, with which to ship his lumber to Chicago. He had large timber holdings in Roscommon county, Michigan, upon which he depended for a long period for his supply, not only for his mill at Michigan City, but for another large enterprise of the same kind which he operated at Bay City, Mich. In his various dealings with his fellow-men Mr. Boyce was scrupulously honest. Nothing could tempt him to take an unfair advantage, nor would he allow himself to profit by the misfortunes of others. Coming to Grand Rapids to make his home, in 1880, from that time until his death he lived more or less quietly, although he still kept in close touch with business affairs and never allowed himself to get wholly out of accord with the activities of his fellows. He was a Democrat, and while not an office seeker, was thoroughly informed on all leading topics, political or civic. With his family, he belonged to the Episcopal church and was a consistent attendant and generous supporter. In Masonry he advanced to the Knights Templar rank. Mr. Boyce was first married in 1847 to Miss Ann Smith, of London, England, and three children were born of this union: Esther Ann, wife of Robert Hitchcock, of Trinity, Tex., and Cecelia and Edward J., who are deceased. After the death of his first wife Mr. Boyce was again married, being united with Miss Isabella J. McCulloch, daughter of Cathrine (Rose) and Archibald McCulloch, of Eldon, Ontario; and four children blessed this union: Archibald A. and George J., residents of Bay City, Mich., where they are con-

Hosted by Google

tinuing the lumber operations inaugurated by their father, and Jessie L. and Isabella J., who reside with their widowed mother, at 333 Sheldon avenue, Grand Rapids. Mr. Boyce passed away in the place of his nativity, March 13, 1902.

Adolph H. Brandt.—In studying the lives and characters of successful men of business, it is but natural to inquire as to the contributing sources of their success and the motives which actuated them. Success in business is not a matter of genius, but the result of experience, industry and sound judgment, in the majority of cases, and the careers of those who stand highest in position and public esteem prove that in nearly every circumstance they are those who have devoted their lives to effective study and close application to business, and have risen gradually, fighting their way against all opposition. Thorough training in the school of practical financial experience, hard and constant endeavor, and the following out of honorable policies have placed Adolph H. Brandt among the leading business men of Grand Rapids, where he is now vice-president of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank and connected prominently with a number of other institutions which contribute to the prestige of the Furniture City. He entered upon his career in a humble capacity, and the success which he has won has been attained without outside aid or adventitious circumstances. Mr. Brandt is a native son of Grand Rapids, and was born July 8, 1870, his parents being George and Elizabeth (Florey) Brandt, natives of Germany. His father came to the United States as a lad of sixteen years, locating shortly thereafter in Grand Rapids, where he was employed for a time and later entered business on his own account. He was an industrious and capable man, but did not live to see prosperity crown his efforts, as his death occurred in 1879, when he was but forty-nine years of age. Mrs. Brandt died in Switzerland, about 1912, in the faith of the German Lutheran church, of which her husband had also been a member. They were the parents of the following children: George W., who is now deceased; Adolph H.; Ernest J. and Frank W., residents of Grand Rapids; and Caroline, who is the wife of Henry Herpolsheimer, of this city. Adolph H. Brandt secured his early education in the parochial schools of the German Lutheran Evangelical church, later attended the public schools, and completed his preparation for his career by taking a commercial course at the Swensberg Business College. After one year in that institution he secured employment with the Grand Rapids Paper Box Company, with which concern he remained three years, then becoming associated with Mr. Rosenthale, in the Tower Clothing Company, for one year. At the end of this period Mr. Brandt became office boy under J. A. S. Verdier, in the Kent County Savings Bank, and during twenty-five years remained with that association. He was quick to learn as a youth and soon won promotion to bookkeeper, where his fidelity and industry made him a favorite with his employers and gained him further advancement. He was duly made assistant cashier, and at Mr. Verdier's death assumed the duties of cashier, which he discharged with ability until 1912, when he resigned his position to become vice-president of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. He has been identified with a number of other important business institutions, and at present is treasurer of the Grand Rapids Trust Company, secretary and treasurer of the Investment

Hosted by Google

Realty Company, secretary and treasurer of the Grand Rapids Bread Company and treasurer of the Lindquist Company. In the working out of his business destiny, Mr. Brandt has not allowed himself to become merely a business drudge, although daily active in a hotbed of industry. He enjoys the companionship of his fellow-men, and holds membership in the Peninsular and O-Wash-ta-nong clubs, and in the local lodges of the Masons and Elks, and also belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. His religious connection is with St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church. Public-spirited and charitable, he always finds time for studying and fostering movements which aim to improve the public weal. Mr. Brandt was married Oct. 23, 1891, to Mathilde, daughter of George and Louisa (Lang) Stengel, of Saginaw, Mich.

James P. Brayton made his home at Grand Rapids from 1889 until his death, in 1912. He achieved not only position and standing among the leading men of his day at Grand Rapids, but a reputation that extended far beyond the immediate scene of his activities. He was born at Aztalan, Wis., Nov. 23, 1847, a son of James C. and Julia (Barnard) Brayton. His father, who was a civil engineer by profession, followed that vocation, and his activities took him to various points. For a time he was engaged in operations at Holland, Mich., later he removed to Grand Haven, Mich., and finally, in 1877, went to Florida, in which state he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives and passed away. James P. Brayton attended the public schools of his native community in Wisconsin and at Grand Haven, and his boyhood and youth were passed in the various places in which his father carried on his profession. Under the tuition of his father he learned civil engineering, working with the elder man through Michigan and also familiarizing himself at the same time with timber values, and in 1877 he joined his parents in Florida, where he resided until 1883. In that year he returned to Grand Haven and for a time devoted himself to civil engineering, but eventually began to devote his entire attention to dealing in timber lands, a field in which he made rapid strides. In 1889 he came to Grand Rapids. His operations in timber grew and developed quickly, and in 1897 he opened an office in the Marquette building at Chicago. During his later years he had timber cruisers all over the United States and Canada engaged in estimating standing timber and his activities in this field made his name known not only in the timber business, but in the lumber trade throughout the United States and Canada. He was the greatest expert timber estimator in the United States. He was a member of the firm of the Baker Lumber Company, whose mills were in Arkansas. Mr. Brayton died July 25, 1912. He was a Republican in his political views, a Mason, and he belonged to the Peninsular and Kent Country clubs. Mr. Brayton was twice married, and is survived by his widow and two children who were born to his first wife: Louise, of Newark, N. J., and Mary, wife of Fred M. Dean, of Grand Rapids, and who has two children—James Brayton and Fred M. Jr. Mrs. Brayton resides at No. 516 College avenue, and is one of the well known ladies of Grand Rapids, belonging to a number of church and patriotic organizations. She has served as state vice-regent, state regent, and vice-president-general for Michigan of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Hosted by Google

Rudolph M. Bremer.—On the roster of men who have come prominently before the public in banking circles in recent years is found the name of Rudolph M. Bremer, assistant cashier of the Grand Rapids National City Bank. Mr. Bremer has been identified with this institution for two decades and is widely known in monetary circles, where evidence of the esteem in which he is held by his associates is found in his presidency of the local chapter of the American Institute of Banking. Mr. Bremer is a native of Kent county, born on a farm in Walker township, Oct. 31, 1878, son of Francis Henry and Mary (Wurtzler) Bremer, natives of Germany. Francis H. Bremer was about twenty years of age when he immigrated to the United States, first locating in the vicinity of Detroit, and about 1865 coming to Kent county, where he passed the remainder of his life as a farmer. His death occurred in 1886, while Mrs. Bremer survived him until 1915. Henry Bremer, an uncle of the subject of this sketch, was city treasurer and comptroller of Grand Rapids in an early day. After attending the public schools of Grand Rapids, in 1898 Rudolph M. Bremer entered the Grand Rapids National City Bank, where he began to learn the business at the desk, holding a minor clerkship. The fidelity and industry which he displayed attracted attention and won him promotion, and as his ability was developed by experience he was given positions of greater responsibility and trust, eventually being made assistant cashier, a capacity in which he has given evidence of the possession of sound acumen and practical knowledge of the intricacies of banking. In addition to being president of the Grand Rapids chapter of the American Institute of Banking, he belongs to the Credit Men's Association, and has other connections which assist in making him well known to business men and bankers generally. Mr. Bremer is a Republican, but a good citizen's interest is all he has taken in public affairs. His religious affiliation is with the German Lutheran church. Mr. Bremer was married Oct. 16, 1907, to Susan, daughter of Martin L. and Mary (Rimmell) Harris, of Grand Rapids, and they have a son, Robert Harris. Mrs. Bremer's parents, who were farming people of Eaton county, Michigan, are both deceased.

Nelson Brewer.—Among the life-long residents of Gaines township, one who has been a witness to and participant in the wonderful changes which have transformed what was once a wilderness into a fertile, productive region, and which have revolutionized farming methods and procedure, is Nelson Brewer, who is still making his home and centering his farming activities in section 9. Mr. Brewer's history has been that of the township, and in just such measure as the locality has prospered and advanced, so has he won prosperity and advanced to a recognized position among his fellow-men. He was born in Gaines township, Kent county, Michigan, Jan. 23, 1848, son of Aaron and Jane (Freeman) Brewer. His parents, who were born and reared in Pennsylvania, shortly after their marriage went to York State and settled in Washington county, where they resided for several years. Subsequently, in 1843, they decided to seek their fortunes in the West, and Nov. 30 of that year arrived in the wilds of Gaines township, where they settled on 100 acres of uncleared land. The country was new, comforts and conveniences few, and primitive conditions prevailed almost entirely, but the young and energetic cou-

Hosted by Google

ple set to work with a will and soon had subjugated the wild forces of Nature. After their first property was cleared and put under cultivation, they continued to add to their holdings from time to time and at one period owned from 700 to 800 acres, but much of this was later sold off. Mr. Brewer became one of the foremost citizens of his day in his locality and was honored by election to practically every township office within the gift of his fellow-men, being accounted an influential Democrat of Gaines township and having a wide acquaintance among the prominent men in that party. He was a member of the Grange and took a foremost part in promoting movements calculated to be of benefit to his community. For years he kept the old Cuba postoffice, which was situated on the Kalamazoo stage road, was later one of the organizers of the Citizens' Telephone Company, of Grand Rapids, and became a stockholder and director of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. He and his wife were parents of three children: Freeman, who is deceased; Nelson, and Frank, a resident of Gaines township. Nelson Brewer was given the usual public school education granted to youths of his community and time and began his active career by learning the business of farmer while working with his father. After he had attained his majority he continued working for the elder man, with whom he remained during the rest of the latter's active life, and since his death has carried on his operations alone. His property, located in section 9, Gaines township, is one of the well-improved farms of this part of the county, and its appearance of prosperity does not belie its condition, for Mr. Brewer is an excellent business man and capable manager. The buildings are well constructed and kept in the best of repair, while the equipment, machinery and other improvements evidence the owner's possession of judgment and taste. General farming has been Mr. Brewer's standby and in this branch of his vocation he has perhaps had the greatest success, although he has also met with prosperous results in the breeding of Durham cattle, and at one time was a sheep raiser. His name stands for integrity and square dealing among his fellow-citizens, and he has served as treasurer of his township, to which office he was elected on the ticket of the Democratic party, of which he has been a member since he attained his majority. His name has frequently been found on the lists of public-spirited men who have sought to aid the township and county in their growth and advancement. Mr. Brewer was married Sept. 11, 1871, to Miss Phoebe Dunham, born Sept. 20, 1849, a daughter of William and Hannah (Conant) Dunham. The father was born in Maine, but as a young man went to Ohio, where he was married to a native of that state, and in 1853 they came to Kent county, Michigan. Not long thereafter the mother died, the father married Emily Godwin, and the children were brought up in the old Van Lew family. Four children were born to William and Hannah Dunham: Henry, who died in infancy; Charles, who lived in Cadillac, Mich., and died in August, 1917; Jennie is Mrs. Albert Hatch, of Grand Rapids; and Julia D. became the wife of John Kinzie, of Muskegon, and died in 1910. Mr. Brewer has 190 acres, 140 of which is in a good state of cultivation.

Richard Brink.—The recognized prestige of citizens of this country in almost every branch of human endeavor is in large measure due to that spirit of progress which urges them constantly onward

Hosted by Google

and upward. The possession of this ambition to gain imposing pre-eminence is shared by all who attain to successful position. The most humble may develop into an individual of high standing, provided he possess the determination and ability to forge ahead, and many lives have been reconstructed from small beginnings. To reach the heights, the goad of necessity is frequently required, and a large number of the truly able men of the country have entered upon prosperity through the stimulating influence of being forced to make their own way without assisting factors. One of the men who left more than ordinary amount of good work behind him when he entered into eternal life was the late Richard Brink, of Grand Rapids, who for a long period was one of that city's useful citizens and for many years a power in its mercantile circles. Richard Brink, more familiarly known as "Dick" Brink, was born at Grand Haven, Mich., Sept. 11, 1859, and received his education in the public schools of that place. His father, who was a sailor on the Great Lakes, died when Richard was a lad of five years, and when he was still a youth he became a clerk in the general store conducted by his stepfather, John Fuite. When he was about nineteen years of age he came to Grand Rapids and secured employment in a clothing store, but after a short period became identified with Houseman & May Company, being for a long time a salesman for that concern. On March 22, 1899, he established the Dick Brink Clothing Company, at 54 Monroe street, and continued to be the active head of this business until his death, Oct. 4, 1908. Mr. Brink was an honorable man of business, whose integrity was never doubted, and whose enterprise was built upon the foundation stones of honesty and straightforward representation. For several years he was president of the Monroe Business Men's Association, and he was also active in the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. He was a member of the old White Guard, was fraternally identified with York Lodge No. 410 of Masons, the Knights of Pythias, and the D. O. K. K., belonged to the Knickerbocker club, and was a member of the First Reformed church. In his death his community lost a substantial and reliable citizen who had done much to advance its interests. Mr. Brink was married, July 16, 1888, to Caroline C., daughter of John and Jeannette A. (Bishop) Crane, of Grand Rapids, natives of Ohio, who came at an early day to Michigan and settled at Hastings. Mr. Crane was killed at the battle of Stone's River in the Civil war, in which he was fighting as a member of a Michigan infantry regiment. Mrs. Brink, who survives her husband, and with her only son, Howard C., is conducting the business founded by her husband, is one of the well known ladies of Grand Rapids and a member of the Fountain Street Baptist church. Howard C. Brink, only son of the late Richard Brink, and one of the energetic young business men of the Furniture City, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 11, 1890. He received a graded and high school education and entered upon his business career with his father, since whose death he has conducted the establishment in his own and his mother's interests. Mr. Brink is a member of the Peninsular, Highlands Country, and Automobile clubs, and the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. He is prominent in Masonry, belonging to York Lodge No. 410, Columbia Chapter No. 132, DeMolay Commandery No. 5, DeWitt Clinton Consistory, and the Eastern Star, and also to Saladin Temple of the

misspelled

Hosted by Google

Mystic Shrine, and other fraternal organizations in which he holds membership are Grand Rapids Lodge No. 2, Knights of Pythias; the D. O. K. K.; Grand Rapids Camp No. 11, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Brink holds the rank of second lieutenant in the Thirty-second division, 126th infantry, formerly of the Michigan National Guard.

Frederick Brogger.—While more than a quarter of a century has passed since the death of the late Frederick Brogger, there will be many doubtless of the older residents, as well as of the traveling public, who will remember kindly this genial hotel keeper of Grand Rapids. When he first came to this city Mr. Brogger was a youth without capital or friends, but in the years that followed he succeeded admirably in attracting both to himself, and when he died, although not yet forty years of age, he was accounted a substantial man in a material way, while his friendships were equalled by the number of his acquaintances, and there were many left to mourn his loss. Mr. Brogger was born in Germany, July 26, 1852, and came of an honest family who were in moderate circumstances that allowed the lad only an ordinary public school education. Immediately upon completing his studies, he was apprenticed to the trade of baker, and when he had mastered that vocation he worked as a journeyman. However, he felt that he was making little headway in his native land, and it was not long ere his eyes turned toward America. He had become profoundly impressed by the tales of the opportunities to be found in this country by the energetic and ambitious, and after some self-sacrifice and industry he was able to accumulate sufficient means wherewith to come to America, choosing Grand Rapids as the scene for his expected success. As noted, he was without capital, and at that time, in 1871, found employment hard to get at his trade here. He was able to get other honorable work, however, and in the same year as that of his arrival entered the employ of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Co., one of the best-known pioneer concerns of the city. He had some knowledge as a cabinet maker, which secured him a good position in that capacity, and with this concern his ability in this direction was developed, so that he became a valuable man for his concern. While thus employed, Mr. Brogger became acquainted with a young woman of Grand Rapids, Ann Richter, daughter of Valentine and Josephine (Reamer) Richter. Their romance progressed rapidly and culminated in their marriage, Sept. 24, 1878. At that time Mr. Brogger left the employ of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company to take over the management of the Ohio Hotel, which had been built, was owned and had been operated by his father-in-law, Valentine Richter. Mr. Brogger continued as manager of this hostelry until his death, April 28, 1892. While he was still comparatively a young man, with his best years before him, Mr. Brogger had been successful in his undertakings. He had through good judgment and a careful study of the wishes and needs of the public attracted a splendid patronage to his house and had made himself a general favorite. As a business man he was known to be possessed of sterling integrity and his good citizenship made itself manifest in numerous ways. His religious connection was with St. Mary's Catholic church and he belonged to the C. M. B. A. and St. Joseph's Association. At the time

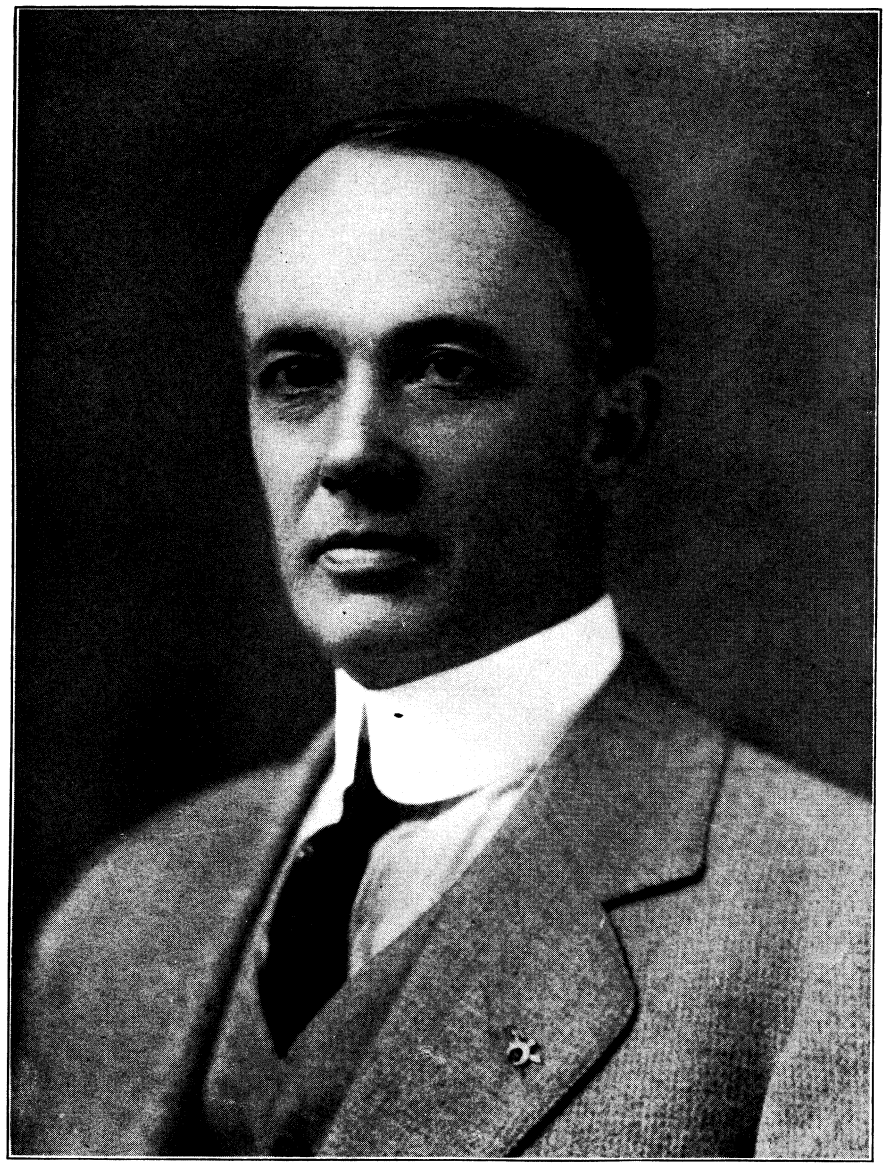
Hosted by Google

of Mr. Brogger's death, in 1892, Mrs. Brogger had the building remodeled and since that time it has been under the capable management of William F. Glaser. Mrs. Brogger, a woman of marked business capacity, survives her husband, and is one of the well known and highly esteemed residents of the community in which she has lived for so many years. She has been the mother of two children: Ella, who died at the age of seven years, and Frederick, who was born in 1881 and is known in business circles of Grand Rapids.

Charles E. Brooks.—Among the live and energetic business men of Sand Lake, Charles E. Brooks is recognized as one who has established his right to be named. He is also deserving of the title of self-made man, for he started out upon his own initiative as a youth of seventeen years and has worked his own way to position and success, in addition to which he has been prominent in the civic affairs of the village and at present is serving in the capacity of justice of the peace. Mr. Brooks was born, July 24, 1861, in Allen county, Indiana, son of W. H. Brooks, a native of New York. W. H. Brooks was a druggist by vocation, but after some years spent in that business turned his attention to farming, which he followed in Allen county, Indiana. When his son was still a child he changed his residence to Kent county, Mich., taking up a farm in Nelson township, where he made a success of his operations. Finally, his attention was turned to the hotel business, and, coming to Sand Lake, he became proprietor of the Brooks House, which he conducted for a long period. Through good management he made this one of the popular houses of the section and had built up a good business when the hotel was destroyed in the disastrous fire which swept the village. Charles E. Brooks received his education in the district schools of Nelson township, Kent county, and was partly reared on his father's farm, subsequently coming with the elder man to Sand Lake. Here, at the age of seventeen years, he began to shape his own career, engaging in the jewelry and barber business. Even as a youth he was possessed of good business ability, while his energy and industry found an outlet in working persistently to build up a paying trade in his line. At this time he is the proprietor of the leading tonsorial parlor of the village of Sand Lake, and in addition thereto conducts a prosperous cigar and tobacco business, in which he has also built up a good trade, handling all the leading brands. These ventures have been built up solely through Mr. Brooks' energy and business acumen. He is thorough-going in all that he undertakes and has a keen taste for his business, while his popularity among the people of Sand Lake has done much to gain him success. In politics he is a Democrat. He has the people's confidence, as is evidenced by the fact that he has been elected councilman and village clerk, capacities in which he handled himself so well that he was eventually elected justice of the peace, an office which he holds at this time. He has made an excellent impression in this capacity, as in the others, and has vindicated himself fully in the eyes of his fellow-townsmen who have placed their faith in him. He belongs to several fraternal orders and in other ways takes part in the active life of the flourishing village. Justice Brooks married Josephine, daughter of Nathan Burroughs, and a member of a family which traces its history in Kent county back to the earliest settlers of this region. They have several children, among

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Alvah Brown

Hosted by Google

whom is Charles Walter, who was called to the United States army and reported at Battle Creek, Mich., for service.

Alvah W. Brown.—The executive head of some of the largest and best known business institutions of Grand Rapids, Alvah W. Brown is an example of that spirit of enterprise which has so distinguished this city during the past several decades. Here have been founded, fostered and expanded the great business projects which have carried the city's name and fame to distant lands, often arousing surprise, envy and emulation and ever commanding admiration. Behind these great enterprises stand the able men who organized them and who have consistently carried out the policies which have resulted in such commercial prosperity. Belonging to this class of energetic and capable business men is Alvah W. Brown, who needs no introduction to the people of Grand Rapids, for this is his native community, and here during a long period he has been identified with some of the city's most important concerns. Mr. Brown was born in Kent county, Michigan, in 1865, and his education was secured in the public schools of Grand Rapids. As a youth he showed himself enterprising and industrious and early became identified with the Durfee Embalming Fluid Company, although not known by that name at that time. This concern had been established as early as 1871 by Allen Durfee, who had founded the firm of Allen Durfee & Company. For some years Mr. Brown worked energetically for this company, rising in the esteem of his employers and being promoted from time to time as his industry and real capability commended him for advancement, and finally purchased from Mr. Durfee the formula and the right to manufacture this article, which by that time had acquired a wide reputation and a receptive and profitable market. In 1895 Mr. Brown was the principal factor in the founding of the Durfee Embalming Fluid Company, of which he has since been the directing head in the offices of president and treasurer; with Freeman Bremer, vice-president, and George Sinclair, secretary. Evidence of Mr. Brown's ability in promoting large and successful enterprises is found in the growth of this company. In 1895, when it was founded, the capital represented was $8,000. Four years after its inception, in 1899, the capital was $100,000; and in 1902 the company was reorganized with a capital of $165,000. Mr. Brown is also president of the Brown & McInnes Undertaking Company, president of the Michigan Hearse & Carriage Company, vice-president of the Michigan Engraving Company and president of the Utilization Company. He is a director of the Western Michigan Fair Association and chairman of the Michigan Funeral Directors' and Embalmers' Association. Thus, for more than twenty years, Mr. Brown has been identified with large business projects and his judgment is valued in everything connected with the line of industry which he represents. Under his progressive policy rapid growth and permanent trade relations have characterized his houses, and as they stand today monuments to his superior business qualifications, their importance is second to none in the Middle West. An extremely busy man, with large interests which need constant attention, Mr. Brown has nevertheless found time to discharge civic responsibilities, having, in 1902, been appointed a member of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. He is an active member of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade and takes a helpful and useful

Hosted by Google

part in various civic movements. When he can spare the time, he is often found on his 100-acre farm in Paris township, where he has nearly 3,000 hogs, fed by city garbage. In all his associations, with friends, acquaintances, business competitors and the public at large, he impresses through a pleasing personality and is widely esteemed.

Orrin Edson Brown.—In the death of Orrin Edson Brown, which occurred May 10, 1915, the grain commission and brokerage interests of Grand Rapids lost a representative who had been connected with this phase of the city's business life for many years, and whose transactions in connection therewith had reflected credit upon the business and the community. His long and active career was one which was an illustration of practical industry, and in the working out of his destiny he found honor among his fellow-men and a respected name as a citizen of the city of his adoption. Mr. Brown was born at Old Deerfield, Franklin county, Massachusetts, Dec. 19, 1842, son of Elijah and Cynthia (DeWolf) Brown, natives of the Bay state and members of old and honored families which had come to this country long before the outbreak of the Revolutionary war. Elijah Brown was a miller in the East, a vocation which seems to have been followed extensively by the Brown family, but when he came to Grand Rapids, in the '70s, had already retired from active affairs, having gained a modest and satisfying fortune through industry and good management of his affairs. Later he removed with Mrs. Brown to Rockford, Mich., and there both passed away, well advanced in age, each having rounded out a life of signal usefulness. They were devout members of the Congregational church and the parents of the following children: Henry E., a resident of Chicago, Ill.; Julia and Otis L., deceased; Orrin Edson, of this notice; Sarah, wife of James Newman, of Fairport, N. Y.; Ellen J., widow of Charles Maxfield, a former resident of Grand Rapids; James, of this city; and Albert E., deceased. The public schools of his native community furnished Orrin E. Brown with his educational training, while he learned the milling business under the preceptorship of his father and was thus well prepared to enter upon his career when he came to Michigan at the time he attained his majority. He first located at Alpine, where he found employment with John Ellis, in the milling industry, Mr. Ellis subsequently becoming his father-in-law, and for eight or ten years remained in that community, all the time becoming more and more proficient in the business and learning its minutest details. He was accepted as a partner by Mr. Ellis after several years, but in 1862 disposed of his interests at Alpine and came to Grand Rapids, where his first venture was in the insurance business. At that time he did not remain for any great length of time, but removed to Rockford, Mich., where he resumed operations as a miller and was soon joined by his parents. He remained at Rockford until 1875, when he again came to Grand Rapids, this time to try his fortune in the grain commission business. This venture proved an almost immediate success, and after several years Mr. Brown added the brokerage business and continued to follow these two avenues of business endeavor with constantly increasing prosperity until his death, May 10, 1915. Mr. Brown had a wide acquaintance among the prominent men in the grain trade, and that they sought his friendship was caused by the confidence which they placed in him, a faith generated by and based upon

Hosted by Google

the honorable manner in which he always carried on his transactions. He was one of the active workers in the Association of Commerce and affiliated himself with numerous movements which had as their object the advancement of the general welfare, whether of city, business or public. Mr. Brown was an attendant of Park Congregational church and his social connections included membership in the Peninsular and Kent Country clubs. Mr. Brown was married, Aug. 11, 1868, to Rosamond E., daughter of John and Ellen N. (Fish) Ellis, of Alpine, Mich., and they had two children: Mabel, who died in infancy, and Hattie, who is the wife of Fred Tracy, of Grand Rapids, and has a child, George Winton, born Jan. 16, 1914. The parents of Mrs. Brown were born in the Empire state and her father was among the earliest settlers of Grand Rapids, whither he came in 1833. He first bought land in the vicinity of what is now the heart of the Furniture City, but subsequently disposed of this farm, after clearing it, and moved to Alpine, where he followed saw and flour milling. Both he and Mrs. Ellis passed away there. Mrs. Brown, who survives her husband and resides at No. 149 Prospect avenue, N. E., was born at Grand Rapids and received her education here. She is well known in the vicinity of her home and is active in church work and a member of a number of social bodies.

Rev. Robert W. Brown.—For nearly twenty-one years Rev. Robert W. Brown has served as pastor of St. James' Catholic Church of Grand Rapids, and during this time has succeeded in building up a large and prosperous pastorate and in the attainment of much that has been beneficial to his church and his people. His connection with this parish, however, does not represent in its entirety the period of his identification with ministerial labors, and he was ordained a priest in 1889, and for some time his experiences were varied and his work of a character to test his versatility. Father Brown was born on a farm in Chester township, Ottawa county, Michigan, Dec. 9, 1859, and remained under the parental roof until he was eighteen years of age. Until that time, he divided his attention between assisting his father in the work of the home place and attending the common schools, and when seventeen years old entered the graded school at Lisbon, in Ottawa county. On leaving home, he began teaching a public school in Alpine township, Kent county, but after one term returned to Ottawa county and there was a teacher for three years. In 1881 he entered upon an elective course in the Grand Rapids high school, and after he was graduated, in 1883, again taught school for one year. In the spring of 1884 Father Brown entered St. Vincent College, at Latrobe, Pa., under the Benedictine Fathers, and completed a classical and theological course in 1889, on June 29 of which year he was ordained a priest by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Richter, of Grand Rapids. He was at once assigned as assistant pastor at St. Simon's church, Ludington, Mich., and after six months was appointed pastor at St. Simon's. After four years of hard and unremitting work there, his health failed under the strain, and he was accordingly transferred to the Hemlock Missions, in Saginaw county. Later he had charge of the church at Merrill, in the same county, where he worked until January, 1897, when he took up missionary work with Rev. E. H. Youman, C. S. P. Laboring in the diocese of Grand Rapids until Feb. 7, 1898, on that date he relieved the late Father

Hosted by Google

Pulcher, succeeding him as pastor of St. James' church. Father Brown is much beloved by his people, in whose interests he is a tireless worker and for whose welfare he is constantly solicitous. A learned priest and a close student of human nature, he is not only his people's spiritual guide, but their financial advisor and personal friend, and as a result his influence is far-reaching and his work prolific of results.

Claude Robinson Buchanan.—It is not alone as a thorough, skilled and painstaking lawyer and leader of the bar that Claude Robinson Buchanan is widely and favorably known to the people of Grand Rapids, but as a man of great literary ability and a dramatist whose work has gained him something more than a local reputation. He is a product of Grand Rapids, here received his training and early education, and the greater part of his career has been passed at the Furniture City, where whatever success he may have gained—and it is not inconsiderable—has been fairly and honorably won in straightforward competition. Mr. Buchanan was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 17, 1858, and is a son of John C. and Sophia H. (Bingham) Buchanan, the former of whom came to this city in 1842 and the latter in 1855. John C. Buchanan was a respected citizen of his day and was engaged in business as a gunsmith, in which line he filled government contracts for the United States during the administration of President Buchanan. When the Civil war came on he enlisted in the Union army, and from 1861 to 1864 served as captain of Company D, Eighth Michigan infantry. He returned to Grand Rapids at the close of a splendid military career and here continued to be engaged in various business ventures until his death, in 1902. The common schools of Grand Rapids furnished Claude R. Buchanan with his early education, and after his graduation from high school here, he enrolled as a student at the University of Michigan, which he attended from 1877 to 1881. In the latter year he was graduated in the literary department with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in his senior year also took the law course. During the seven years that followed, like many other men who have succeeded in the practice of law, Mr. Buchanan engaged in school teaching, his educational labors carrying him to different points in Michigan, Illinois and Iowa. During this period he continued to perfect himself in the law by reading and study during his leisure hours, and when he returned to Grand Rapids, in the fall of 1888, was admitted to the bar and began practice. His first professional business was secured while he was in a law partnership with Charles W. Tufts, this association continuing for about three years, and later Mr. Buchanan had as his associate L. G. Rutherford, with whom he was in partnership for some ten months. During the greater part of the period of his professional labors, however, he has been, as now, engaged in an independent practice, his present offices being located at 332-332 Michigan Trust Company building. He carries on a practice of a general nature, being equally at home in the various departments of his calling, and has been employed as either general or special counsel by some of the leading corporations of the city, as well as having been retained by prominent individuals in cases involving important points of law and deciding considerations of large monetary value. He belongs to the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar

Hosted by Google

Association and the National Bar Association, and among the members of his profession enjoys an honorable standing. Mr. Buchanan has held political offices of no kind, and his only interest in politics is that which he has as a good citizen, desiring to see good men elected and beneficial measures passed. His religious connection is with the Fountain Street Baptist church. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees, the Independent Order of Foresters, the Knights of Pythias and the Masons, in the last named being identified with York Lodge and DeWitt Clinton Consistory, and being also a member of the Saladin Temple of the Mystic Shrine. He is possessed of fine literary ability, and this was recently demonstrated, in October and November, 1916, when he joined in a joint debate with William P. Lovett, contributing nine articles to the various newspapers of Michigan during the liquor campaign. Mr. Buchanan had the wet side of the argument. Aside from his profession, Mr. Buchanan is perhaps most greatly interested in the drama, and is the author of the following plays: "The Queen's Riddle," which was produced at Powers Theatre, Grand Rapids, April 22, 1896; "Duchesse de Langeais," produced at the same theatre, May 10, 1905; "Amber Witch" and "Miss Somebody." Mr. Buchanan is a Republican. He has never cared for club membership. On July 23, 1885, he was married to Matilda S. Sharp, who died June 21, 1917, and they had one son, Claude S. Buchanan, who is now a resident of Washington, D. C., designing engineer in the National Bureau of Standards, Aeroplane Department.

Asa Filer Burch.—In the death of Asa Filer Burch, Grand Rapids lost another of that generation of business men upon whose enterprise, industry and foresight so much of the material greatness of the city was builded. He, with other men of his day, passed through the most important part of the city's growth and helped to raise the metropolis of Kent county to its present position. Courage, faith and moral strength belonged to the men of that day, and Asa Filer Burch shared those manly virtues fully. His reward was success in a measure any man might hope for, and the respect of his fellow men which all men covet. However, Mr. Burch was much more than an able business man, for he was a public-spirited citizen and deserved in the fullest degree the high credit given him in the good opinion of the people of this part of the state, while the regret of his loss was sincere. Mr. Burch, who was a resident of Grand Rapids for more than forty years, was born at Hannibal, Oswego county, New York, Nov. 8, 1827, son of Thomas and Lucy (Filer) Burch. He was educated in the public schools of Hannibal and at Falley Seminary, Fulton, N. Y., and at the latter place, upon leaving school, applied himself to the painter's trade, which he mastered. He was ambitious and industrious, and after a short time spent as a journeyman embarked in business on his own account as a painter, the scene of his first enterprise being Pulaski, Oswego county. Subsequently, in connection with his painting business, he expanded the scope and volume of his operations by taking up furniture repairing and the undertaking business, and by close application and sound business principles, combined with honest and straightforward dealings, was successful in building up a business that gave him a measure of success. However, his desires were for a more extended

Hosted by Google

field and he accordingly decided to try his success further to the west. During a short period he was engaged in a painting and wall-paper business at Lafayette, Ind., after which he went to Kalamazoo, Mich., and organized a company for the manufacture of the Empire organ, this business being moved to Grand Rapids in 1870 and located on Monroe street. From that time forward Mr. Burch took an active and helpful part in the upbuilding of the Furniture City's commercial and manufacturing interests, as well as in movements making for civic betterment. In 1873 he resumed the painting and wall-paper business, with an establishment at No. 44 North Division street. Always on the lookout for further and more extensive opportunities, Mr. Burch shortly thereafter added a furniture repairing department, and this gradually developed into a wholesale mercantile house, jobbers of upholstery materials and furniture supplies, and Oct. 17, 1904, a stock company was formed under the style of A. F. Burch Company. Mr. Burch was elected president and continued in that capacity until his death, March 10, 1911. The Burch line of goods under his direction became noted for their excellence and high quality, and for coming up to specifications. This was Mr. Burch's policy throughout his life—to live up to all his engagements and to give honest value and honest service. His name therefore was widely known as a synonym for integrity and still gives prestige to the house which he founded, even though more than seven years have elapsed since his death. Public-spirited in marked degree, he always stood for good citizenship, but did not care for political honors. He was an active and devout member of the Methodist church and daily lived the faith in which he died.

Jenne Burg is one of the representatives of the agricultural interests of Kent county who represents in his industry and prosperity the kind of material that has been contributed to this country by Holland. He has been a resident of this country and Kent county since 1890, and his career since coming here has been characterized by a faithful adherence to the principles which govern our civic and governmental ideals. Mr. Burg was born in Holland in 1855, son of Edgar Burg. The elder man was a native of that country and passed nearly all of his life there, but eventually joined his son in the United States, where he spent his last years, as did his wife also. She died at the age of ninety-one, and he was sixty-eight years old at the time of his death. Jenne Burg received a common school education in Holland, and was reared there, engaging in various occupations before coming to America as a man of thirty-four years. On locating at Grand Rapids, in 1890, he secured employment with Thomas E. Wicks, with whom he remained for fifteen years, and after leaving Mr. Wicks' service was otherwise engaged for eight years. It had always been Mr. Burg's desire, however, to have an independent position, and this ambition was realized in 1909, when, through the assistance of his former employer, Mr. Wicks, he was enabled to secure his present farm in Nelson township. This consists of 144 acres, partly under cultivation. Mr. Burg may be termed a general farmer, although he specializes in raising corn and beans, and these crops have given him a good income, as his industry and good management have served to make things prosperous for him. As his finances have improved each year, he has added new equipment and

Hosted by Google

buildings to his property, and his farm is rapidly becoming one of the model ones of his township. In his work he has been ably assisted by his admirable wife, who learned the art of agriculture in her native country, Holland. Mr. and Mrs. Burg are contributing materially to the support of their adopted country in the present war. Their elder son, David, is at this writing at Camp Custer, Battle Creek, in training and awaiting the time when his division will be sent to the front, across the waters. Their other son, Edgar, is now in France. Mr. and Mrs. Burg also have three daughters: Minnie, wife of William Norton, living in Oregon; Allie, wife of H. Hill, also of Oregon; and Maggie, wife of L. Williams, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Burg has always been a devoted Republican. He has not sought political or public office, but has rendered service in a number of appreciable ways to his community, always having been ready to support with his influence, energy and means any movement calculated to benefit the general welfare. He is a member of the Dutch Reformed church.

Walter N. Burgess was born in Lansing, Mich., Nov. 22, 1870, son of Thomas and Catharine (Case) Burgess. He was educated in the public schools and at Ferris Institute at Big Rapids, and moved to Grand Rapids in 1895. He began his mercantile career as a clerk at Big Rapids for A. S. Holcomb & Co., and was afterward employed as department manager and road salesman by H. Leonard & Sons, and became president of the Leonard Crockery Co., for which he was the buyer for twelve years. His last business engagement was with the Kinney & Levane Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, large dealers in china and glassware. He began his military career, March 30, 1888, by an enlistment in the National Guard at Big Rapids. He arose from the ranks, and served as captain from 1893 to 1895, when he resigned upon coming to Grand Rapids. Filled with the military spirit, he soon enlisted in Company K at Grand Rapids and rapidly filled the offices of corporal, sergeant, first sergeant, and was regimental sergeant major in 1905, under Col. P. L. Abbey. He was with the regiment on the Mexican border and served as first lieutenant and battalion adjutant. He served as recruiting officer at Grand Rapids, and inspector to mounted detachments. Upon the return of the troops from Mexico he was detailed as acting regimental adjutant at Fort Wayne, and on April 5, 1917, was commissioned captain of the Thirty-second Michigan infantry supply company, being a member of the staff of Colonel Westenedge, of Kalamazoo. His experience as a business man and buyer has peculiarly fitted him for his work at the head of the commissary department of his regiment, and he has shown marked efficiency in seeing that men from Western Michigan are well and promptly provided for. Captain Burgess was married, June 25, 1890, to Miss Jesse A. Sauer, and to them two children were born—Carlton M. and Harriet L. V. Death called his first wife, and on May 3, 1916, he was married to Miss Olena P. Hermansen.

Frederick E. Burleson, M. D.—Among the men devoted to the science of healing at Grand Rapids, few have brought to their profession broader experience in diversified lines of endeavor than has Dr. Frederick E. Burleson. Far from selecting his life work in the untried enthusiasm of extreme youth, the choice of this practitioner was that of a mature mind, trained to thoughtfulness by years of practical experience and by coming into contact with his fellow men,

Hosted by Google

and to a full realization of the responsibilities and possibilities which he faced in the adoption of one of the most honored, and at the same time one of the most difficult, of the vocations in which man may engage. Dr. Burleson was born at Saginaw, Mich., Aug. 12, 1874, son of Charles and Elizabeth (Spalding) Burleson. He was one of a family of seven children: George S., who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Buffalo, N. Y.; Frank A., manager of the Burleson Hotel at Grand Rapids; Dr Willard M., founder of the Burleson Sanitarium and its president; Jesse C., who died at the age of seventeen years; Mae, wife of C. A. Daniels, of Grand Rapids; Frederick E., of this notice; and John F., also identified with the Burleson Sanitarium. The parents of Dr. Burleson were farming people in the vicinity of Saginaw, and it was in that city that the Doctor acquired his elementary education in the public schools. Subsequently, he was sent to Ferris Institute, at Big Rapids, in which he was duly graduated, and at that time entered upon a business career that covered a number of years. He eventually became a traveling salesman and came to Grand Rapids to act in that capacity for the wholesale grocery house of Amos Musselman, and it was while thus engaged that his latent attraction for the medical profession made itself felt in so commanding a manner that he decided to enter that calling. He accordingly did some preparatory work and then entered the Detroit College of Medicine and Surgery, and in the class of 1916 was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and at once began practice at the Burleson Sanitarium, with which he has since been connected. His successful treatment of complicated and long-standing cases, and his skill in diagnosis, have already created a favorable impression and have laid the foundation of what promises to be a career of exceptional breadth and usefulness. In political affiliation, Dr. Burleson is a Democrat. He is fraternally affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Phi-Chi medical fraternity, and also holds membership in the Grand View Automobile club. To a thorough professional equipment he adds a kindly and sympathetic manner, a genuine liking for his calling, and a ready adaptation to its exacting and multitudinous demands. Dr. Burleson was married May 27, 1896, to Miss Katherine, daughter of Edward and Caroline Gyde, of Saginaw, Mich., and they are the parents of two children: Edward, a resident of Detroit, and Miss Elizabeth, who resides with her parents.

John F. Burleson, M. D.—In the medical fraternity of Grand Rapids, one who has won distinctive success as a practitioner is Dr. John F. Burleson. In addition to having built a large and representative private practice, he is discharging the duties of the positions of secretary and treasurer of the Burleson Sanitarium, and has won an enviable standing in the ranks of his calling. Dr. Burleson was born March 18, 1878, in Shiawassee county, Michigan, where the family has been known for many years. His preliminary educational training was gained in the public schools of Saginaw, and his professional studies were prosecuted at the Detroit College of Medicine, in which he was graduated with his degree in the class of 1906. In that year he came to Grand Rapids and began practice with his brother, Dr. W. M. Burleson, and they have since remained together. On April 1, 1917, Dr. Burleson assumed the duties of secretary and treasurer of the Burleson Sanitarium, one of the well-known institu-

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Engd by S. G. Williams & Bro. N.Y.

Sincerely yours

Willard M. Burleson M.D

Hosted by Google

tions of this nature at Grand Rapids. The Doctor is independent in his political views. He is a Mason of high standing and holds membership in several of the leading clubs of the city. Dr. Burleson was married April 3, 1907, to Miss Abbie M. Sibley, daughter of Aaron L. Sibley, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of two sons—John S ("Jack") and Willard M.

Willard M. Burleson, M. D.—The men who have given of their energy, skill, ambitious vigor and enthusiasm in the building up of an institution for the preservation of health are the benefactors of a community and their names cannot be held in too high esteem. In every undertaking there must be a logical beginning, and the man who lays the foundations of what afterwards becomes a great health-giving enterprise must have the courage of his convictions, and not only unlimited faith in his own ability and in the venture which he is founding, but in the community in which his enterprise is builded. Dr. Willard M. Burleson, some years ago, looked far beyond the narrow horizons of his day and easily read the signs of a dawning enlightenment. To him belongs the distinction of having planned, founded and built to its present proportions of usefulness the great Burleson Sanitarium, at Grand Rapids, where thousands of people every year come to find relief and cures for the ailments that assail the health of mankind. Prior to entering upon this great venture, Dr. Burleson had attained a position of distinction in his profession, but his activities as a private practitioner were somewhat proscribed, and it was not until he had founded the sanitarium which bears his name that he was able to give to his fellow-men the full advantages of the gifts given him by Nature and developed by long years of study and experience. Willard M. Burleson was born at Saginaw, Mich., March 20, 1868, son of Charles and Elizabeth (Spalding) Burleson. His parents moved to Shiawasee county, Michigan, in 1873, where they purchased a farm, but ten years later the father returned to Saginaw and there passed away, while the mother died in Grand Rapids. There were seven children in the family: George S., a practicing physician and surgeon of Buffalo, N. Y.; Frank A., manager of the Burleson Hotel, Grand Rapids; Dr. Willard M.; Jesse C., who died at the age of seventeen years; Mae, wife of C. A. Daniels, of Grand Rapids; and Drs. Frederick E. and John F., who are identified with the Burleson Sanitarium. The public schools of Saginaw furnished Willard M. Burleson with his early education, and his medical training came in the Saginaw Valley Medical College, in which he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the class of 1899. At that time he came to Grand Rapids, where he carried on a general practice for something over two years, but Jan. 1, 1892, he began specializing in rectal diseases. For some years it had been the intention of Dr. Burleson to found an institution such as the one which bears his name, but it was not until 1911 that he found himself able to give himself whole-heartedly to this magnificent work. In that year he purchased the present building, which he repaired and remodeled throughout. This is now one of the finest institutions of its kind in the country and is visited annually by an average of 3,000 patients. It has 350 rooms, with seven operating rooms, and thirty-two rooms for office business. The medical staff comprises Dr. Willard M. Burleson, Dr. John F. Burleson, Dr. Frederick E.

Hosted by Google

Burleson, Dr. Ward S. Ferguson, Dr. James C. Droste, and Dr. L. A. Ferguson, all men of the highest standing and reputation in their profession. The company behind the sanitarium is incorporated at $650,000, the officers being Willard M. Burleson, president; W. S. Ferguson, vice-president; and John F. Burleson, secretary and treasurer. Dr. Burleson is accounted a skilled practitioner, a sure and steady-handed surgeon, and a student of his calling who keeps fully abreast of its marvelous advancements. He is a Republican in his political views and a member of the Fountain Street Baptist church, belonging to the official board. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masons and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and also holds membership in the Grand Rapids Automobile club. He has a good military record, having served for five years in the regular army as a member of Troop G, Sixth United States cavalry, of which regiment "Black Jack" Pershing was a member. Dr. Burleson, enlisting as a private May 2, 1886, was subsequently advanced to corporal and later to sergeant, being stationed at Fort Bayard, N. M. Dr. Burleson was married Aug. 21, 1900, to Miss Mary Morris Comstock, daughter of Tilston Comstock, of Grand Rapids, and of this union there has been born a child, Ellen Elizabeth, who resides with her parents.

Roger W. Butterfield, who has been a practicing attorney in Grand Rapids for nearly half a century, was born April 23, 1844, a son of Rev. Isaac and Sarah A. Butterfield, his father having been a minister of the Baptist faith for over fifty years. From his boyhood home at Elbridge, Onondaga county, New York, Mr. Butterfield was taken to Davenport, Ia., where he attended Griswold College, and subsequently was a student at Adrian (Mich.) College. In 1865 he entered Princeton University, New Jersey, being graduated in June, 1866, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in 1869 received the degree of Master of Arts from the same institution. In the meantime he had entered the law department of the University of Michigan, being given his degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1868, in which year he commenced practice at Grand Rapids. He became a partner of Willard F. Keeney, Jan. 1, 1887, and this association still continues, the firm having been engaged in some of the most important litigation ever brought before the courts of the state. In the same year Mr. Butterfield was elected one of the regents of the University of Michigan. Occupying an eminent place in his profession, Mr. Butterfield is also well known in business circles, where he has given of his ability in the building up of some important enterprises. He is president of the Grand Rapids Chair Company, the Clallam Lumber Company, the Florida Cypress Lumber Company, the Drew Timber Company and the Buffalo River Lumber Company, vice-president of the Imperial Furniture Company, and a director of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. He belongs to the Peninsular and other clubs of Grand Rapids and to various fraternal orders. In May, 1876, he was married to Miss Leonora I., daughter of Moses Drake, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and of this union there were born four children: Mary B., Isaac L., Roger Champlin and Archibald D. A native of Grand Rapids, Roger Champlin Butterfield possesses in marked degree the persistent energy which animates the sons of this thriving Michigan city. The popularity and prominence which he enjoys are not of the superficial or ephemeral order, but the result of more than fifteen

Hosted by Google

years of social and professional establishment at Grand Rapids, where he is now a member of the firm of Butterfield & Keeney. If there be in fact anything like the influence claimed within the theory of hereditary mental tendencies, its logical result would have led Mr. Butterfield to select the law as his life profession, and his success in this direction conclusively proves that in him personal characteristics, temperament, mental qualities and literary training have combined to make the study and practice of law a congenial pursuit. A lawyer, Roger C. Butterfield is a son of a distinguished member of the profession, and thus comes quite naturally by his preference and capacity for that career. He was born May 30, 1879, attended high school at Grand Rapids, the Powell School, a private institution, and the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the Upsilon Psi fraternity, and graduated in law in 1903. He was admitted to the bar in June of that year and at once began practice with Butterfield & Keeney, being admitted to membership in the firm Jan. 1, 1906. Mr. Butterfield is a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar Association, and his social connections include membership in the Peninsular, Kent County and O-Wash-ta-nong clubs. He has connected himself variously with the life and activities of Grand Rapids, having been president of the Schubert club for six years and secretary of that organization for a like period, a director thereof for some time, and a member of the Falstaff club. He is also a member of and active worker in the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, and belongs to the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, of which he was a director for one term. His offices are in the Michigan Trust Building.

Thomas Byrne.—Emerging from the background of the early history of Kent county, and later of Grand Rapids, is the strong and forceful personality of Thomas Byrne. The passing of thirty-six years since his death has not sufficed to lessen in the minds of those who survive him their appreciation of a man whose name was synonymous with integrity, honor, justice and business capacity, and who, although a resident of Grand Rapids for only five years, had in that time permanently identified himself with the best material and civic advancement of the city. Mr. Byrne was a Canadian by birth, but his training and business experience were both gained in the United States. He was born Feb. 17, 1837, a son of William Byrne, and was a child when brought to Michigan, his education being secured in the public schools. Of rugged physical build, as a youth he found employment in the lumber camps, where he passed through the strenuous training that only the most hardy can withstand, and gradually developed into a dealer in lumber. On coming to Kent county, in 1864, he settled on a farm, and for thirteen years was identified with agricultural pursuits, making a success of his operations, developing a fine property, and accumulating a satisfying reward from his labors. In 1877 he left the farm and came to Grand Rapids, where he embarked in the lumber business with De Los Blodgett and was rapidly forging to the forefront among the men of prominence in the business world of the city when his death suddenly occurred, in February, 1882, when he was but forty-five years of age. Mr. Byrne was a Democrat, but business so filled his life that he found no time for public matters, nor did he care for the doubtful honors to be

Hosted by Google

gained in the political arena. His religious connection was with St. Andrew's Catholic church, and he was a liberal contributor to all worthy enterprises, of a religious, moral or educational character. On May 2, 1884, Mr. Byrne was united in marriage with Miss Catherine, daughter of Terrence and Mary (Briody) Brady, of Saint Thomas, Ontario, Canada, and they became the parents of five children, namely: Eva, who is the widow of Dr. Brandt, of Grand Rapids; Catherine, who died at the age of three years; Thomas, who died when eight years of age; John T., a resident of Grand Rapids, and a son who died in infancy.

Antoine B. Campau, one of the talented architects that Grand Rapids has produced, possesses a very large circle of professional and social friends. He belongs to a family which has long been noted for professional achievement, and his name has been connected with the erection of some of the city's most impressive and beautiful structures. He was born at Grand Rapids, March 2, 1878, and is a son of A. S. Campau. He received his primary education in the public schools of Grand Rapids and early showed artistic talent and a predilection for the architect's profession. After a comprehensive course at the Boston Technical Institute, in which he was graduated with the class of 1901, he went abroad, and during the two years which he spent as a student at the Ecole des Beaux, Paris, France, his fine genius and brilliant talents were thoroughly developed. Returning to Grand Rapids, he became a member of the firm of W. G. & F. S. Robinson, and when W. G. Robinson died, in 1907, the firm of Robinson & Campau was formed, and it still continues in existence. Among the structures accredited to Messrs. Robinson & Campau may be mentioned the First Methodist Episcopal church, the Central, West Side and South High schools, the Steketee, Murray and Manufacturing buildings, and many other public and private edifices, a sufficient number of them to make an interesting chapter of the active duties of their years of busy and responsible professional life. Mr. Campau is a member of the Peninsular club. He has always abstained from anything that could possibly be called active political life, but takes an interest in those things that affect the welfare of his city and gives his support to men and measures which he believes will benefit the general welfare. Mr. Campau was married Jan. 28, 1904, to Miss Kathryn A., daughter of P. J. Britton, of Grand Rapids, and of this union there have been born two daughters, Marianne and Antoinette.

Francis D. Campau.—Of the native sons of Grand Rapids who have achieved success in the legal profession, one of the most successful is Francis D. Campau, a member of a family that has been identified with the city since 1827. In that year the paternal grandfather of Mr. Campau, Antoine Campau, who was born at Detroit, Mich., came to this community and engaged in farming on the tract of land now occupied by Campau Park. There he remained the rest of his life, engaged in agricultural pursuits, and died in 1871, one of the best known and most substantial of his locality's citizens. He married Sarah Cotrell, of Cotrellville (now Marine City), Mich., who died in 1881. The father of Francis D. Campau, Andrew S., was born at Grand Rapids in August, 1838. He received good educational advantages, attending first the public schools and later Notre

Hosted by Google

Dame University, Indiana, and in 1852 journeyed overland to California, where the gold seekers from all over the world were engaged in search for the precious metal. After a short period as a miner, he accepted a position in the perilous service of the Wells-Fargo Express Company, for which he drove a stage for several years, and then took the equally dangerous employment of United States government scout for the Territory of Nevada. A man of unquestioned courage, his career in the West was featured by many interesting experiences among the Indians and "bad men" of that newly settled region, where he remained until 1871. In that year the death of his father made it imperative that he return to Michigan, where he took charge of the Campau estate and engaged in the real estate business. He is now retired from active affairs, being in his eightieth year, and makes his home at Grand Rapids. He is a Republican in his political views, and a member of St. Andrews Catholic church. Mr. Campau was married at Grand Rapids to Miss Mary Elizabeth Blackwell, who was born at Union City, Ind., in July, 1856, and died at Grand Rapids, Feb. 9, 1916, and they became the parents of two sons, Antoine B., of this city, and Francis D. After attending the graded and high schools of Grand Rapids, Francis D. Campau began a course at the University of Chicago, in which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy, in 1902. He is a Harvard man, having taken his law course there, and a member of the class of 1905, with which he received his degree of Bachelor of Laws. Following his graduation, he returned to the city of his birth and embarked in the practice of law with Walter Drew, but after a short time the partnership was dissolved, when Mr. Drew left the city, and Mr. Campau has since practiced alone. He has carried on a general professional business and has attracted a large and important clientele. In political matters Mr. Campau is a Republican, but his only connection with public affairs is that maintained by every good citizen who seeks to secure good men in office and good laws made. He belongs to the various organizations of his profession, and is a popular member of the Peninsular club and an active worker in the Association of Commerce. Mr. Campau was born at Grand Rapids, Sept. 8, 1880, and was here married, Aug. 2, 1909, to Ethel Lauren Dunn, daughter of William C. and Mary Marsh (Shropshire) Dunn, of Jackson, Tenn. They have one daughter, Jacqueline Denise, born Sept. 10, 1913.

Major Edgar H. Campbell was born at White Oak, Mich., July 5, 1871, son of William Rodell and Helen (Austin) Campbell. He was reared on a farm and educated at the high school at Lawton, Mich. In civil life he followed the profession of pharmacist, being employed for nine years at Ludington, coming to Grand Rapids in 1896, and being known here as a skilled decorator. He enlisted for service with the American troops in the Spanish-American war, as a private in Company B, on May 4, 1898. The following February he was made a corporal and in April a sergeant, in which capacity he served until the close of hostilities. Upon the reorganization of the regiment he was commissioned second lieutenant, filling this office for two years, when he became first lieutenant, and after eighteen months was transferred and served as commander of Company M. He resigned this position and was appointed first lieutenant and battalion

Hosted by Google

adjutant, which rank he held for six years, and during the Mexican border service served as captain and regimental adjutant. On Feb. 7, 1917, he was promoted to major in the adjutant-general's department, and assigned to the first Michigan infantry brigade as adjutant. He was appointed a member of the state military board and now holds the position of major on the staff of Brigadier-General Covell.

Rev. Edward K. Cantwell.—Were a record kept of the daily trials, of adverse circumstances overcome and responsibilities faithfully carried out by those who labor in spreading among mankind the principles of humanity, morality and right living, much valuable and enlightening information would be preserved, for it is such things that serve as an index to a man's character and determine his worth to his community. The majority stand forth advantageously under stress of powerful circumstances, and on the spur of the moment develop into heroes, but it is the one who can endure the every-day burdens, discharge insignificant duties acceptably and come out of it all successfully, who can be accounted a real man. The life of the minister of the gospel serves to develop many of this class, and to them is accredited the spiritual welfare of the communities in which they live and labor. Stone-by-stone they build the foundations for their life work, not in a single moment of emblazoned glory, and because of this fact their structures stand firm no matter what winds and storms of adversity, prejudice and ignorance beat against them. Kent county has numbered among its dependable citizens men of the above class, and one who is held in the highest esteem is the Rev. Edward K. Cantwell, rector of St. Alphonsus' church of Grand Rapids, and a man widely and favorably known in the missionary and lecture field in the Middle Western states. Reverend Cantwell was born at Madison, Wis., May 2, 1871, and is a son of Michael J. Cantwell. His father was one of the prominent men of his community in Wisconsin, won success in business and honor as a citizen, and as a member of the Wisconsin State Senate was the author of a number of bills which added to the welfare and betterment of his locality. During the Civil war he fought bravely as a wearer of the uniform of the Union, and for many years after that struggle was prominent in affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic and served as commander of his post for several terms. He has now passed away, as has also the mother of Reverend Cantwell. The public and parochial schools of Madison furnished Edward K. Cantwell with his early education, following which he began his theological studies in seminaries at Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained a priest of the Order of Redemptorists in 1896, and his first appointment was at the Rock church, on Grand avenue, St. Louis, where he remained for a period of four years. He then went as superior and rector to St. Joseph's Redemptorist parish, at Denver, Colo., where he spent three years in earnest and useful labors, and was next placed as assistant at St. Alphonsus' church, New Orleans, La., where he remained two years. His next location was at Portland, Ore., where he founded the House of Redemptorists and remained six years in building up a large and representative congregation, and in 1912 came to Grand Rapids as rector of Saint Alphonsus' parish. Here he has been exceptionally successful in the accomplishment of worth-while things in his field, guiding his people well in a material as well as a spiritual way. Since his

Hosted by Google

arrival he has built a rectory, has erected a school, which is modern in point of system, and has established a playground, several acres in extent, on Lafayette avenue. In addition to carrying on his work in this immediate field, he has continued to be engaged in conducting missions in the Middle and Western states, and has likewise met with much success as a lecturer, possessing a fine presence and convincing power of oratory. Reverend Cantwell has won a firm place in the hearts and confidence of his people, and his activities at Grand Rapids are being productive of good results.

John F. Cardwell, M. D.—Prominent among the members of the medical profession of Kent county who are following their calling as specialists is found Dr. John F. Cardwell, than whom there are few better or more favorably known in the treatment of diseases of tbe eye, ear, nose and throat. He has brought to the practice of his profession a thorough and comprehensive training, both along general and special lines, a natural respect for its responsibilities, and a devotion to its highest ethics, that have at the same time given him high reputation and prestige and the confidence of the public and of his fellow-practitioners. Dr. Cardwell was born at Owosso, Shiawassee county, Michigan, April 14, 1873, a son of John L. Cardwell, who died in 1880. His early education was secured in the public schools of Owosso, following which he entered the Detroit College of Medicine, in which he was graduated in 1900, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. After engaging in practice at Durand, Mich., for two years, in 1902 he came to Grand Rapids and carried on a general practice for nine years, building up an excellent practice and displaying the possession of talents that bid fair to take him far in his profession. In the meantime he had become particularly interested in the subject of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat, and their treatment and cure, and eventually decided to enter this difficult field as a specialist. In order to better prepare himself for this special work, in 1911 he went to Europe, where he remained one and one-half years, receiving instruction and attending clinics and lectures in some of the most famous institutions of the Old World, spending nine months at Vienna, two months at Berlin and four months at London. Thus equipped, in October, 1912, he returned to Grand Rapids, where he has steadily advanced to a commanding position among the specialists of the city. He now maintains well appointed offices in the Widdicomb building, and has a large, remunerative and representative practice. He belongs to the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, is well known in fraternal circles, and belongs to the Country club and other social organizations. Dr. Cardwell was married Sept. 7, 1904, to Miss Jennie M. Coe, daughter of Samuel H. Coe, of Salamanca, N. Y., and they have four children: Edith J., Grace M., Jean E. and Douglas A.

Charles C. Cargill.—One of the foremost business men of Grand Rapids is Charles C. Cargill, president of The Cargill Company, printers and engravers, and additionally identified with many important interests in Kent county. He was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., May 5, 1863. His parents were Hawley N. and Frances (Kraal) Cargill. His father was born in Cayuga county, New York, in 1830, and now lives at Grand Rapids, one of the city's most venerable and much

Hosted by Google

esteemed citizens. The mother of Charles C. Cargill was born in Holland and is deceased. Their children were nine in number: Henry is deceased; Hawley is a resident of Saint Ignace, Mich.; Frank K., Charles C., George T., Joseph D., Mary Elizabeth and Edward M. reside at Grand Rapids; Eva is deceased; and William O. is in business at Grand Rapids. Hawley N. Cargill came to Grand Rapids in 1854 and for a time had charge of the steamboat freight house on Grand river. Later he engaged in a contracting business in which he continued for many years, retiring only when the infirmities of old age fell upon him. He became locally prominent, taking an active interest in civic matters and for some years served as a member of the board of health. Charles C. Cargill has always led a busy life. Reared with the American idea of personal independence, as soon as his school days were over, in 1884, he went to work in the lumber camps as a timekeeper and general clerk and bookkeeper and finally became general superintendent of a logging railway. Thus, when he returned to Grand Rapids, in 1894, he was a well seasoned business man. He had contended with conditions that brought out his perceptive faculties, increased his caution, developed his administrative ability and served to make him a fair judge of men as well as of business issues. It was at this time that he first became identified with the company that bears his name. The Cargill Company, succeeding the Grand Rapids Engraving Company, was founded in 1881 by F. K. Cargill and Mr. Reed, the latter shortly afterward selling his interest to F. K. Cargill, who carried on an individual business until 1892, when it was incorporated with a capital of $10,000, F. K. Cargill being president. In 1902, when the capital was increased to $150,000, the officials of the company were all Cargills: F. K. Cargill, president; George T. Cargill, vice-president; and C. C. Cargill, secretary and treasurer. In 1908 Charles C. Cargill purchased his brothers' interests, and the present officers of the company are: Charles C. Cargill, president; C. N. Jaqua, secretary and treasurer, the present incorporation capital being $210,000. In 1903 the company erected its present commodious building which affords 50,000 square feet of floor space. Employment is given 100 people and four traveling salesmen visit all parts of the United States. The rapid and substantial development of this enterprise reflects great credit on the business ability of Mr. Cargill and his associates. He is active also in general business circles and is a member of the Association of Commerce and of the Credit Men's Association. He was married April 12, 1888, to Miss Ida May Hubbard, daughter of George Hubbard, of Georgetown, Mich., and they have three children: M. Frances, wife of Leman O. Lindsey, of Atlanta, Ga.; Lieut. Charles Roger, of the aerial division, National army; and Richard Irving, who is serving in France as an orderly on the staff of General Pershing, commander-in-chief of the American forces in Europe. The patriotism of these young men who, like many of their comrades, left homes of luxury and brilliant business prospects to serve their country in her time of need cannot fail to arouse approval and admiration in the hearts of all loyal Americans. Mr. Cargill and his family are members of Grace Episcopal church. He is a Thirty-second degree Mason. His social connections are with the Peninsular, the Highlands Country and the O-Wash-ta-nong clubs.

Hosted by Google

Charles Whitney Carman.—Few men have lent more practical encouragement to the grain and general produce raisers of Kent county than has Charles Whitney Carman, of Grand Rapids, whose career has been a remarkable one by reason of the vast extent of his operations as well as because of the number of fields which it has invaded. The founder of the great Carmanday farming community in Alberta, Canada, in 1912, he began agricultural experiments on a large farm in Caledonia township, and here has demonstrated the value of modern methods in farming work in a manner that has lent impetus to the activities of the men who are seeking to develop to the full extent the resources of this rich region. Mr. Carman was born at Walworth, Wayne county, New York, Dec. 16, 1858, son of John and Electa (Camburn) Carman, natives of Rush, N. Y., who in 1868 came to Fenton, Mich., where the elder Carman engaged in buying and selling land. Charles W. Carman was the youngest in a family of four children, the others being Georgia, wife of H. H. Herbert, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Mary A., also of that city; and George M., of Chicago. He received good educational advantages in his youth and attended the University of Michigan during the several years that the family resided in that city, serving for one year as librarian of the college. While there he had the duties of reporting all observations to Lansing and Washington, and when he completed his collegiate course he became principal of the high school at Owosso, a position which he held during 1885 and 1886. In 1887 he was appointed instructor in science at the Grand Rapids Central High School, following which, for eight years, he was Grand Rapids city electrician. Next, for two years, he was president and general manager of the Grand Rapids Electric Company, and at the end of that period went to Chicago, where for several years he had charge of the electrical appliances in the public schools of the Illinois metropolis. In 1905, when he purchased 16,000 acres of land in Alberta, Canada, he founded the Carmanday Farm Company, an enterprise that has since grown to stupendous proportions, and four years later, through his efforts, the Canadian Pacific railway was influenced to build a branch line to the newly formed town of Carmanday. How great a matter of importance this venture has become is shown in the fact that during four years Mr. Carman has raised 150,000 bushels of wheat on this land. This is now leased, and he spends his summers in Alberta, looking after his interests, while his winters are passed at his home in Grand Rapids, in which city he also has important connections. In 1912 he bought 165 acres of land in Caledonia township, Kent county, and since that time has added 400 additional acres to his original purchase, and here he is engaged in experimental work in growing grain and produce and in raising Holstein cattle and Belgian horses, as well as Berkshire hogs. His operations thus far have been of great benefit to the farmers of this section and have been an incentive to spur them to renewed efforts in getting the greatest amount of value and production out of their labors. Mr. Carman is the owner of two apartment buildings in Chicago and land and real estate in other parts of the country. He is a Blue Lodge Mason and is well known in club life at Grand Rapids, where he belongs to a number of prominent organizations. He was married June 17, 1899, to Gertrude A., daughter of George M. Gay, of the Berkey & Gay

Hosted by Google

Furniture Company of Grand Rapids. They have one child, George Gay, born June 11, 1902, and now attending the Grand Rapids Central High School.

Joseph A. Carroll.—In business and financial circles of Grand Rapids the name of Joseph A. Carroll has come to be known in recent years as that of one of the younger generation who is rapidly making a place for himself in the field of finance. Practically his entire career has been identified with banks and bankers and his rise to important position has been as steady as it has been well deserved. At the present time he is the energetic and progressive assistant treasurer of the Grand Rapids Trust Company, which, while one of the newer financial institutions of the city, is already one of the leading ones. Mr. Carroll was born at Mount Pleasant, Mich., March 19, 1882, a son of John and Celia (Gorman) Carroll, natives of Ontario, Canada. His parents, who were agricultural people, came to the United States about 1877 and settled in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant, where the father rounded out his life as a farmer and passed away as one of the highly respected men of his community. He is survived by Mrs. Carroll, who makes her home with her son at Grand Rapids. After attending the public schools of Mount Pleasant, Joseph A. Carroll prepared for a business career by taking a course in a commercial college in his home community, and secured his first experience in the difficult field of finance after graduating from Ferris Institute, Big Rapids. He was employed in the Isabella County State Bank, at Mount Pleasant, and for three or four years acted in the capacity of bookkeeper of that institution, then going to Lake View, Mich., to become assistant cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' State Bank. After three years with that institution he came to Grand Rapids and entered The Michigan Trust Company, but two years later, in 1913, when the Grand Rapids Trust Company was organized, joined its forces as assistant treasurer and still retains that office. Mr. Carroll is a Democrat in politics, but has had no time to enter the political arena as a contestant for public favors. His religious connection is with St. Andrew's Cathedral, and he has numerous friends in the Plainfield Country and Schubert clubs, of which he is a member. Mr. Carroll was married Sept. 16, 1916, to Maud, daughter of John D. and Sarah (Rowan) Carpenter, of Tacoma, Wash. He resides at 366 Richard Terrace, S. E.

Lavant Z. Caukin.—In tracing the careers of men who have met with success in their undertakings in any community, it will be found that each one possesses in common certain qualities, among these being included ambition, perseverance and industry. To these, as in the case of Lavant Z. Caukin, vice-president of the Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids, are added sound judgment, unswerving integrity and a thorough appreciation of responsibility that produce a man of force, usefulness and undoubted achievement. Mr. Caukin was born in Oakfield township, Kent county, Michigan, Oct. 23, 1860, a son of Volney W. and Frances (Marvin) Caukin, natives of New York, and a grandson of Thompson I. Caukin, who was county treasurer of Kent county in 1861 and a well-known agriculturist. Volney W. Caukin came to Michigan, March 30, 1844, and first located in Grattan township, where he took up land from the United States government. Later he removed to Oakfield township, in 1866 went to Sparta, where

Hosted by Google

he resided until 1887, and in that year took up his residence in Antrim county, near Chestonia, where he lived about three years, and there his death occurred, in 1889, while his wife passed away in 1872 at Sparta. Mr. Caukin was one of the prominent citizens of his day and locality and served in the offices of county surveyor and supervisor, and was also sent to the State Legislature. There were eight children in the family, as follows: Lucy A., of Grand Rapids; Emma, deceased, who was the wife of S. P. Petersen; Belle A., who is the wife of Albert Kocher and resides near Shelby, Mich.; Benton A., a farmer of Antrim county; Ada F., of Grand Rapids; Marvin E., of Sparta; Lavant Z.; and Cornelius H., who is connected with the Fourth National Bank. Lavant Z. Caukin attended the public schools of Sparta and the University of Michigan, where he took both the literary and law courses and was graduated in the latter in 1891. At that time he began the practice of his profession at Grand Rapids, with Myron H. Walker, over the Fourth National Bank. After six months of practice he gave up the law for banking, entering the institution named as teller, and rapidly rose through industry and fidelity to auditor, assistant cashier and cashier, and finally to vice-president, the position which he now occupies. Mr. Caukin is a member of the Park Congregational church and is fraternally affiliated with Lodge No. 34, F. & A. M. He has taken a good citizen's part in the movements which have been founded for the betterment of Grand Rapids and its institutions, and is accounted one of the sound and substantial men of the community who have had its welfare at heart while advancing their own interests. Mr. Caukin was married June 30, 1892, to Miss Fannie Daniels, daughter of John Spencer and Mary A. (Hill) Daniels, and they have two children—Howard D. and Park H. The business of the Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids reaches back to the year 1868, when the bank of E. P. and S. L. Fuller was established with offices on old Canal street. The Fuller bank was succeeded, in 1876, by the Graff & Dennis Bank, and Jan. 20, 1879, the latter combined with Randall & Darragh's Bank and incorporated under the state law, taking the name Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank, with a capital stock of $100,000. The officers were as follows: Leonard H. Randall, president; Harry H. Dennis, vice-president; James C. Darragh, cashier. The first board of directors of the Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank consisted of the following: Leonard H. Randall, William Sears, James Nelson, Amasa B. Watson, Thomas M. Peck, Henry H. Dennis and Edwin Bradford. On Jan. 23, 1880, the capital stock was increased to $200,000. On Jan. 17, 1882, the Farmers' & Mechanics' Bank reorganized as a national bank, taking the name The Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids, Michigan, and increasing the capital stock to $300,000. The first officers of the Fourth National Bank were: A. B. Watson, president; A. J. Bowne, vice-president, and I. M. Weston, cashier, while the first board of directors consisted of A. B. Watson, A. J. Bowne, William Sears, E. S. Pierce, James Blair, George W. Gay, D. A. Blodgett and I. M. Weston. On May 24, 1884, A. B. Watson resigned as president and A. J. Bowne was elected to that office. William H. Anderson was given supervision of the bank as managing director, Nov. 16, 1891, and Jan. 13, 1892, was appointed cashier. On the latter date D. A. Blodgett was elected president and S. F. Aspinwall, vice-president,

Hosted by Google

but Mr. Aspinwall died April 3 of the same year, and on the following May 16, George W. Gay was elected vice-president to succeed him. D. A. Blodgett desiring to retire, March 21, 1898, William H. Anderson was elected to succeed him and still continues as the executive head of the institution. The death of George W. Gay, Sept. 13, 1899, caused a vacancy in the vice-presidency, and Nov. 20, 1899, John W. Blodgett was elected vice-president to succeed him, serving in that capacity until his resignation, Nov. 27, 1916, his election as a Class B director in the Federal Reserve Bank of the district including Grand Rapids, making necessary a severance of all official connection with a member bank. Lavant Z. Caukin was appointed cashier March 6, 1906, and J. C. Bishop, assistant cashier, and Jan. 9, 1917, Mr. Caukin was advanced to the vice-presidency and Mr. Bishop to the cashiership, Alva T. Edison being appointed assistant cashier. When the Fourth National was incorporated in 1882, it occupied quarters at the southwest corner of Lyon and old Canal streets. It moved across the street Oct. 25, 1884, into a building especially prepared for it on the site now occupied by the new Commercial Savings Bank building. In 1902 the present location, on Campau Square, was purchased, the building was extensively remodeled, and this has been the home of the Fourth National to the present time.

George Clapperton.—Among the strong figures of the day who are boldly standing for a reform in social and economic conditions, none of the leaders of Kent county have a better record and more appreciative audience than has George Clapperton. One of the leading attorneys of Grand Rapids, he is also one of the most forceful advocates before the public of betterment of civic and state institutions, to which purpose he has contributed his fine abilities in a number of important capacities. Mr. Clapperton was born in the province of Ontario, Canada, July 10, 1857, and as a youth was brought by his parents to the United States. After attending the public graded and high schools, for two years he was a student in an academy at Otsego, Mich., and then came to Grand Rapids and began to read law in the offices of Taggart & Denison. Admitted to the bar in 1888, he began practice and continued until 1894, when he became a member of the firm of Wylie & Clapperton, this firm being in existence until 1898. Mr. Clapperton then continued practice as an individual, but in 1904 formed the partnership that brought about the firm of Clapperton & Owen, this being succeeded by Clapperton, Owen & Hatten, when C. R. Hatten was admitted as a member. The firm has offices at No. 1017-1021 Michigan Trust building and is engaged in a general practice, although Mr. Clapperton specializes to a considerable extent in corporation law. Mr. Clapperton is intensely interested in his profession and it forms his principal interest in life, but he is broad-minded in his views and makes more than a business out of his calling. In 1900 and 1901 he performed the difficult task of preparing a report on taxation in regard to corporations in the United States, as a member of the commission appointed for this work, and this report is to be found in Vol. 19 of the United States Industrial Commissions. His practice is of a nature that naturally demands his attention nearly to the exclusion of other matters, but in some way he has found the time to prove himself a very useful and progressive citizen of his city and state, and in a number of public positions has

Hosted by Google

displayed rare executive and legislative ability. As a keen student of economic and social conditions, he served for three years as a member of the State Board of the Pontiac Asylum, and for three or four years as a member of the State Board of Corrections and Charities. During the administration of President Taft, he was appointed United States collector of internal revenue for Western Michigan and served from Sept. 1, 1911, to September, 1914. Mr. Clapperton was married in 1887 to Miss Harriet Parker, of Byron, N. Y., and they have two children: Elizabeth, who is the wife of Howard Baxter, of Grand Rapids, and George Douglas, a student at the University of Michigan, who is a graduate of Amherst College. He attained the degree of M. A. at the Michigan University in 1917 and is now working for his degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Charles W. Clark has spent the greater part of his life in Kent county and is now actively engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sand Lake. While there have been but few exciting chapters in his life, his career having been passed for the greater part in peaceful and prosaic pursuits, in his history there are to be found lessons which will appeal to the man who recognizes the force of energy, industry and integrity in the affairs of life, for it has been due to these elements in his character that Mr. Clark has won his success and become one of the substantial men of his community. Charles W. Clark was born on a farm in the township of Hinton, Mecosta county, Michigan, Jan. 3, 1866. I. W. Clark, his father, was born in the State of Indiana, from whence as a young man he went to Missouri, and later settled in Michigan. He secured land in Hinton township, Mecosta county, where he was compelled to clear off the timber before he could plant and work the soil, and continued to be engaged in farming until about 1881. At that time he turned his attention to draying at Cedar Springs, and continued to be thus engaged until about 1911. Selling out, he moved to Sand Lake, but after a short time resumed farming and is agriculturally engaged at this time. Mr. Clark married Miss Ada Louise Rockwood, daughter of Reuben Rockwood, and of this union there were born nine children: Charles W., Grace, John, a resident of Grand Rapids; Etta, deceased; Forrest W., employed at the canning factory at Hart, Mich.; Reuben, deceased; Ada, deceased; Nina, and Albert. Charles W. Clark was educated in the district schools of Hinton and Algoma townships, and when he entered upon his independent career was variously engaged as honorable employment of a profitable character presented itself. After working in the mills and on the railroads at Cedar Springs, he embarked in the draying business as his father's assistant, and continued thus employed for a period of ten years. Mr. Clark eventually turned his attention to farming and he is thus engaged at the present time. He has gained an enviable reputation for marked integrity in the discharge of his engagements, personal, civic and business, and is generally well thought of in the community of Sand Lake. Mr. Clark married Miss Edna I. Whiticar, daughter of Isaac F. and Louisa A. (Bristol) Whiticar. Mr. Whiticar was a mill hand until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted as a soldier of the Union in the Seventh Michigan infantry, serving through the war and returning in safety to his family. To Mr. and Mrs. Clark there have been born the following children: Ernest I., who died when five months of

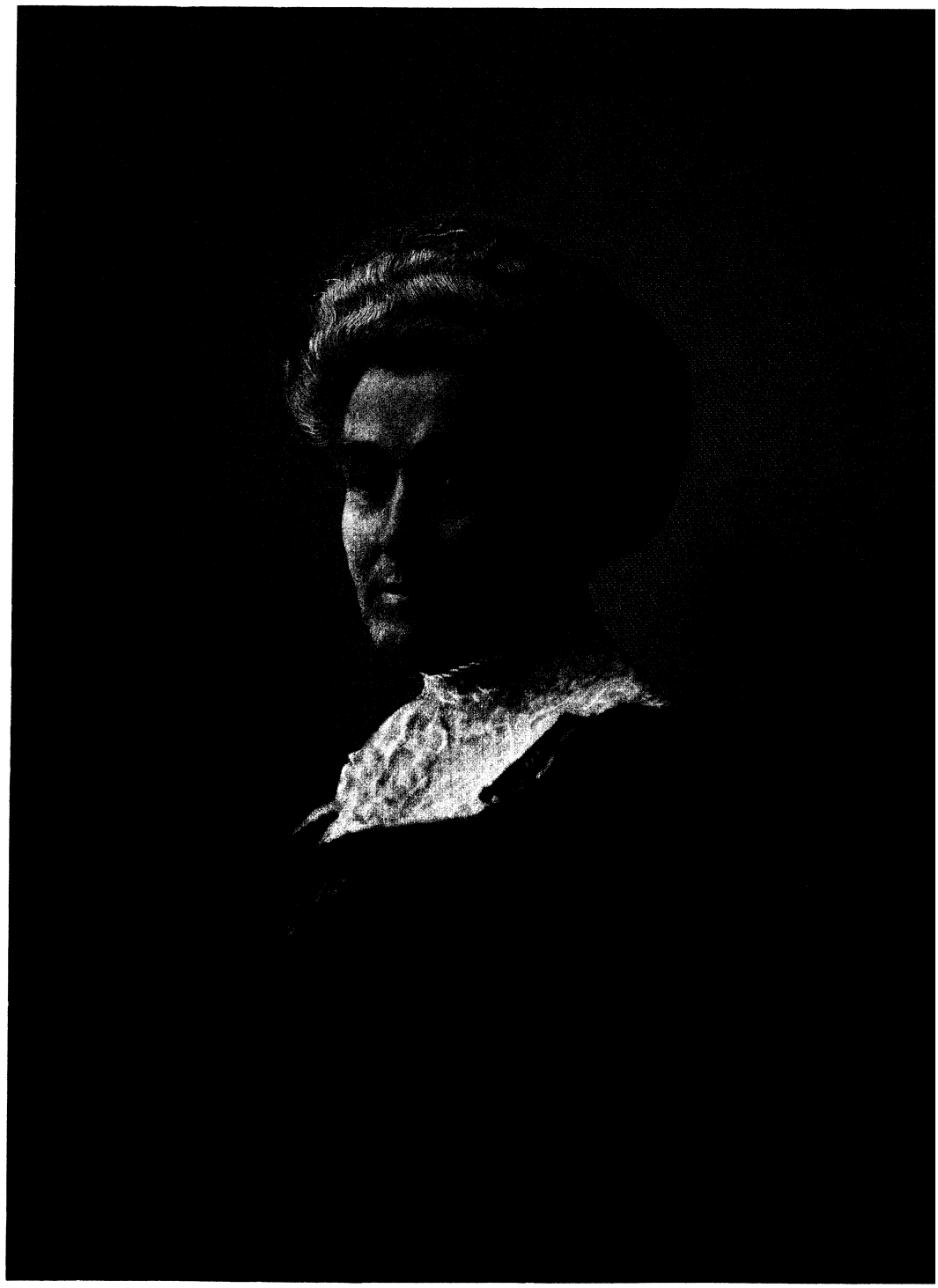
Hosted by Google

age; Leo Leroy, who married Edna Wilson, daughter of Phillip Wilson, a farmer of Montcalm county, Michigan, and has two children—Claude and Viola O.; and Glenn and Howard, who are attending the district schools of Nelson township. Mr. Clark has not been particularly desirous of holding public office, but has served as a member of the school board and has been a hearty supporter of worth-while movements in his community. He votes with the Republican party in national and local elections.

Melvin J. Clark.—A resident of Grand Rapids for more than thirty-four years, the late Melvin J. Clark was variously identified with its business interests, and in his career rose to a place only occupied by those who have striven honorably and unselfishly for the attainment of their goal. While he was persevering in his efforts to attain a competence and business prominence and never passed by an opportunity for advancement, in his transactions with his fellow-men Mr. Clark was ever honest and straightforward, true to his engagements and faithful to his contracts, and that is why, although nine years have passed since his death, his influence is still felt among those who associated with him during his sojourn in the city. Mr. Clark was born at Morpeth, County Kent, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 7, 1835, a son of James and Sarah (Richardson) Clark. He was eight years of age when brought to Michigan by his parents, agricultural people who settled on a farm on Bear Creek, in Cannon township, Kent county. There the parents rounded out long, useful and honorable lives, attracting and holding the esteem and respect of their neighbors and rearing their children to lives of honesty and industry. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the faith of which they died, and Mr. Clark was a Republican after coming to this country. They were unassuming people, kindly and charitable, who were content to follow the simple lives of tillers of the soil and had no desire for the more strenuous activities of the city. They were the parents of five children: Esther, James D., Mary, Melvin J., and Isaac M., of whom all are now deceased. Melvin J. Clark started to school at Morpeth, but had not advanced far when he was brought to Michigan, and here resumed his studies as a pupil in the country district schools in Kent county. Later he secured an academic training at Grand Rapids and when he embarked upon his independent career did so as a farmer, taking up wild land in Solon township, which he cleared and cultivated. He met with success in tilling the soil and also as a merchant, establishing himself in business as the proprietor of a small country store at Solon Center, but after three years at the latter place removed to Cedar Springs and engaged in mercantile lines on a larger scale. In 1875 he disposed of his interests at that place and came to Grand Rapids. By this time he had developed to such an extent that he was ready to enter the wholesale field, which he did in the grocery business, with Isaac M. Clark, his brother, as partner. This proved a successful venture, as did also the hardware business which was added to the grocery enterprise, but after several more years Mr. Clark sold his holdings in both concerns and turned his attention to the lumber trade, in association with Frank Jewell. He was still engaged in that business at the time of his death, which occurred Nov. 23, 1909. The business interests of Grand Rapids lost a valuable representative in his death, and the city a citizen

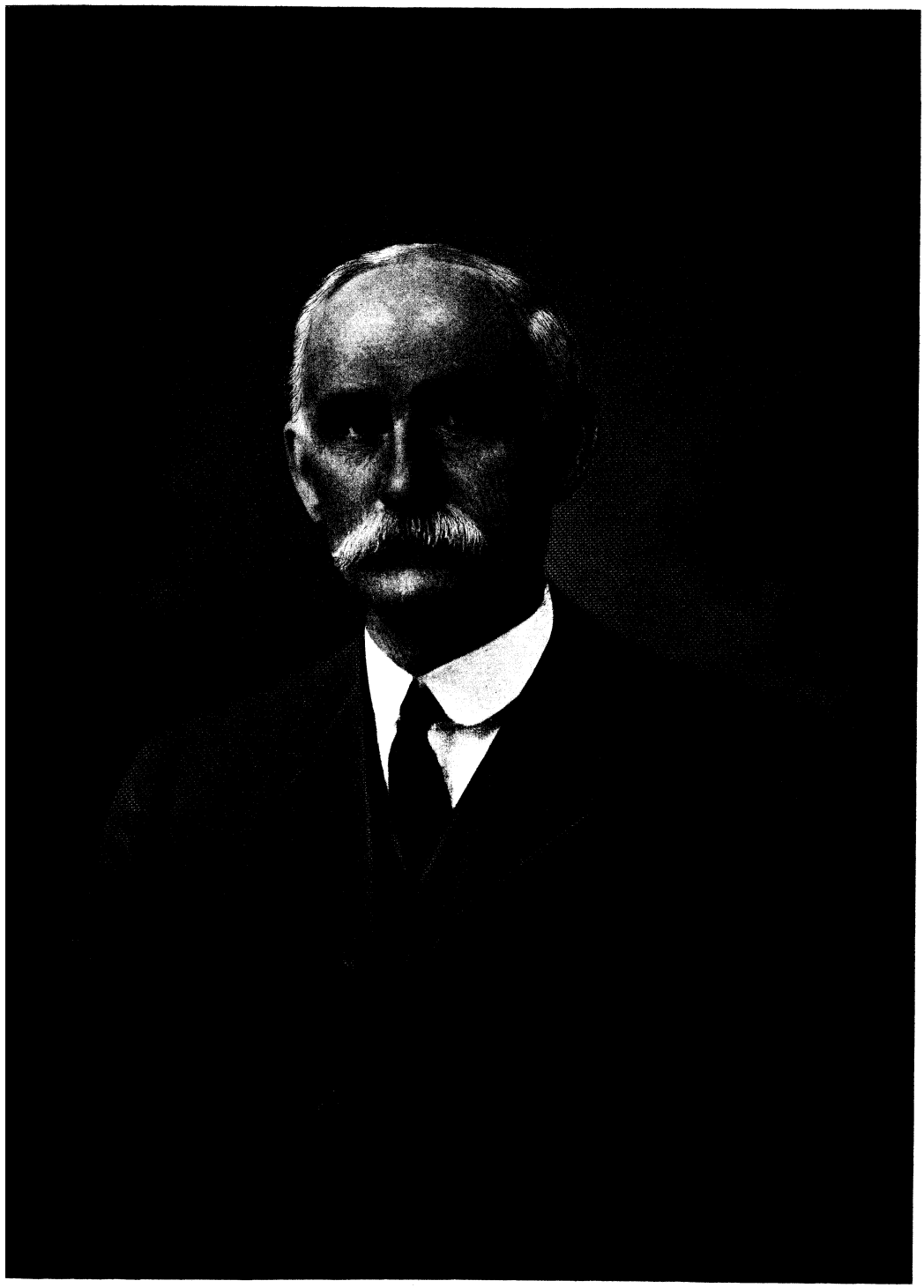
Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Emily J. Clark.

Hosted by Google



Melvin J. Clark

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

who had always been public-spirited and generous in his support of beneficial civic movements. He was a Republican, although not active as a politician, and in fraternal life was identified with Cedar Springs Masonic lodge. Mr. Clark was married Dec. 15, 1861, to Miss Emily Jewell, daughter of Edward and Jane (Dunham) Jewell, of Solon township, Kent county, and they have three children: Margaret, wife of E. W. Wurzburg, of Grand Rapids; Edward J., and Melvin Jewell. Edward Jewell, who came to Michigan, in 1855, from New York state, built the first frame building in Solon township and was the first supervisor of that township. Later he moved to Cedar Springs, where he lived for some years and had several business connections, but in 1880 retired from active pursuits and came to Grand Rapids, where he lived quietly for some years. In the evening of life he went to California, and there his death occurred, June 11, 1900.

Capt. Jess W. Clark.—One of the best-known men in military circles of Michigan, Capt. Jess W. Clark has for many years rendered services of the most important character to his country. His record as a soldier began in 1898, and since that year he has steadily advanced in the service, where he is particularly valuable because of his brilliant achievements in the building of rifle ranges, although his entire career has been one of notable vigilance in safeguarding the public, praiseworthy enthusiasm in official service and splendid loyalty to his country. Captain Clark was born at Marshall, Calhoun county, Michigan, April 9, 1868, son of Charles D. and Josephine C. (Vail) Clark. His father was captain of a troop of New York regulars in the cavalry service during the Civil war and served under the intrepid Custer, and in 1866 came to Marshall, Mich., where, with J. O. Fitch, he conducted a carriage-making establishment until about 1897. He is now deceased. Captain Clark was educated in the graded schools of Marshall and the high school at Cedar Springs, and as a youth worked in grocery stores at Cedar Springs and Rockford. In the meantime he had entered upon his army career, and in 1907 built the government rifle range, known as Bailey Range, since which time his duties have largely been centered in the building and inspectorship of government rifle ranges. Captain Clark enlisted as a private in Company H, Thirty-second Michigan infantry, June 22, 1898, and was mustered out of the service Oct. 29, 1898. On Feb. 13, 1899, he became a member of Company K, of the same regiment, and in July, 1900, was promoted corporal, being made sergeant in July of the following year. His term of service expiring, he re-enlisted, Feb. 13, 1902, and in February, 1903, was promoted first sergeant, and July 2, 1903, was commissioned second lieutenant of Company K. On July 11, 1904, he was transferred to Company M and commissioned first lieutenant, and Aug. 30, 1906, was commissioned captain of Company M. He was transferred to the regular staff in April, 1911, and at that time made inspector of rifle practice. For twelve consecutive years Captain Clark qualified as an expert rifleman, and in 1909 was captain of the official state rifle team. While acting in the capacity of inspector of rifle practice, he composed the problem of change of field firing, at Grayling, Mich., in 1914, where for the first time in a problem in the history of the state the troops used service ammunition. Captain Clark was transferred to the command of Company L, June 7, 1916, and in that capacity saw active service on the Mexican border

Hosted by Google

from June 19, 1916, until Feb. 15, 1917. In 1917, during the absence of Major Stewart, he acted as post commander. Captain Clark was married Dec. 24, 1901, to Mabel, daughter of Isaac and Rachael Vanderhood, of Gratiot county, Michigan, and they have four children: Marion Josephine, Bernice A., William H. and May June, all residing at the family home on Coit Road, one mile north of North Park, Grand Rapids. The entrance of the United States into the great war will give many officers the opportunity of proving their worth, and if the achievements of the past may be taken as a criterion, the future holds forth much of promise to this splendid soldier.

Carl A. Clements.—As the second largest city in the State of Michigan and one of the most important manufacturing centers of the Middle West, Grand Rapids has long taken a leading part in the history of the day, and has attracted to itself some of the trained minds not only in the various learned professions, but those who are capable of controlling the affairs of large industrial enterprises. This feature alone is one which has contributed largely to Grand Rapids' supremacy, as it is a fact that the interests here demand strenuous action and trained ability, and where men possessing these qualities congregate, success is sure to follow and a further enlargement of business fields and operating opportunities. Of the men recently attracted to Grand Rapids, one who within the short span of a decade of years has worked out an admirable success is Carl A. Clements, vice-president of the Sanitary Knitting Company. Mr. Clements was born at Stavanger, Norway, Aug. 9, 1868, son of Knut and Dina Clements, natives of that country. The father was a manufacturer of machinery in his native land, and on coming to the United States, in 1882, located at Chicago, where he became superintendent and special toolmaker for machine companies. He continued to be thus engaged during the rest of his life at Chicago, where he died, as did also his wife. Carl A. Clements was educated in the public schools of Norway and was still a youth when he accompanied his parents to the United States. His first employment in this country was with the Crane Company, of Chicago, world-famous manufacturers, with whom he remained two years. Subsequently he had five years of experience in a Chicago brass foundry, at the end of that time becoming superintendent of the Turner Brass Works, also of that city, in whose employ he remained three years. Next he took charge of a selling agency at Chicago for a knitting concern, this being his first experience in the business, and in 1900 first came to Grand Rapids as superintendent of the Globe Knitting Company, with which he remained nine years. In the year 1909 was founded the Sanitary Knitting Company, a concern for the manufacture of high-grade custom underwear. The officers were E. A. Clements, president; C. A. Clements, vice-president, and E. C. Mangold, secretary and treasurer, and the business was incorporated for $15,000, about twenty people being employed. Just how the business has grown during the ten years of its existence may be shown in the fact that the company now has a surplus of more than $60,000 and from seventy-five to eighty people are regularly employed. Its product finds a ready and receptive market in all parts of the United States, as well as in Canada and England, and at the present time the company has a very large government contract to fill for the present war. Mr. Clements is a

Hosted by Google

hustling and progressive business man, capable in his line and possessed of splendid ideas, as well as foresight and judgment. He is called by associates a man of integrity and of substantial character. In politics he maintains an independent stand and has not been an active factor in public affairs, although a good citizen of his adopted country. Fraternally he belongs to Malta Masonic Lodge and the Grotto, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of the Maccabees, and his social connections include membership in the Peninsular, Grand View Automobile and Schubert clubs. He is also a member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. Mr. Clements was married, first, Sept. 9, 1890, at Chicago, to Miss Helen Jane Imbs, of that city, and they became the parents of one daughter, Helen Jane, the wife of Frederick Munson, of Chicago, and has a son, Frederick Norman. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Clements was married July 7, 1893, to Miss Laura Petersen, also of Chicago, and two children have been born to them: Norman Victor, who is taking an engineering course at the University of Michigan, and Carter Arnold, who is a cadet at the Northwestern Military Academy of Lake Geneva, Wis.

Lewis P. Cody.—There are few cities in the country which offer such unsurpassed opportunities for the development of men and large interests as Grand Rapids, all things taken into consideration. Here are to be found many of the raw materials, or they can be easily obtained through lake and railroad shipments. Here is an immense local market and in the surrounding territory, and here are the men, substantial, energetic, reliable and aggressive, ready and willing to push ahead to successful completion the various enterprises which make the city notable. One of the men who has taken advantage of the opportunities offered at Grand Rapids and who has not only admirably proven his own worth, but has increased his value as a citizen by the development of an important enterprise, is Lewis P. Cody, president of the Grand Rapids Electric Company, which during its quarter of a century of existence has grown to important proportions and is a prominent factor in the business life of the Furniture City. Mr. Cody was born at Grand Rapids, Dec. 31, 1869, son of Darwin D. and Martha (Lewis) Cody. His father, who was born at Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 25, 1841, is at this time a resident of the Forest City, and his mother, native of New Britain, Conn., died in 1910 at Grand Rapids. He has one living sister, Mrs. Roy S. Barnhart, of this city. The public schools of Grand Rapids furnished Mr. Cody with his early educational training, and immediately upon graduating from the Central High School in June, 1888, he began to work for the Grand Rapids Street Railway Company. During the first nine months his labor received no emolument, under methods then prevailing, for he was learning the business and it was considered that the training he was receiving more than compensated for the work he did for the concern. Having thus far advanced he was given a minor position in the electric repair shop, but found that he needed further training and accordingly went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he pursued a course in electrical engineering. After his graduation, in 1892, he was given a position with the Houston Electric Company, of Lynn, Mass., but soon returned to Grand Rapids, where he was made superintendent of the Grand Rapids Electric Company,

Hosted by Google

in 1892, at the organization of that concern by Daniel McCoy. After serving as superintendent of the plant for six months, Mr. Cody was made manager, and since then practically his entire career has been devoted to this concern, which has gradually become one of the potent forces in Grand Rapids' commercial, industrial and civic life, and a concern that has a reputation for solidity and honorable methods. This corporation is an organization of contractors and wholesalers and retailers of electrical supplies, its principal business being in public building contracting, and the territory of its largest operations is confined to Western Michigan. Mr. Cody, a constructive and energetic business man, has risen with his concern, and now directs its policies in the office of president. He has had other business connections, and was one of the organizers of the Citizens Telephone Company. In business circles he is widely and favorably known and is a member of the Builders and Traders' Exchange and the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, while he belongs also to the Plainfield Country club and the O-Wash-ta-nong club, and is a Thirty-second degree Mason. His religious connection is with the Park Congregational church. Prior to her marriage to Mr. Cody, Dec. 16, 1912, Mrs. Cody was Miss Caroline Parks Blodgett.

Eugene D. Conger.—As financial stability must be the foundation stone upon which all great enterprises are erected, the banking interests of a community are necessarily among the most important, and the men who control or conserve the money of the corporations, and individuals of the country must possess many qualities not requisite in the ordinary person. Among these are high commercial integrity, exceptional financial ability, judgment, poise, foresight and public confidence. A citizen who has been identified with the banking interests of Grand Rapids for a number of years, and who has done much in the effective upbuilding of the city along additional lines, is Eugene D. Conger, vice-president and acting head of the People's Savings Bank. Mr. Conger was born at Litchfield, Hillsdale county, Michigan, Nov. 4, 1861, a son of Albert G. and Mary J. (Riblet) Conger, the former a farmer from New York State and the latter a native of Michigan. Eugene D. Conger was educated in the Litchfield public schools and Hillsdale College, and in 1884 came to Grand Rapids and took a course in a business college. His first employment was as a mail clerk in the offices of the Grand Rapids Telegram, and in this way he became connected with newspaper life and spent a number of years therein. From employe he rose to employer and for several years was owner of the Grand Rapids Herald. This property was sold in 1905. His next experience was as secretary of the West Michigan State Fair, and when he resigned from that office he entered the People's Savings Bank, of which he became cashier in February, 1908. In 1912 he was made vice-president and manager of this well-known and prosperous banking house and these positions he retains at this time. Mr. Conger's labors have been of a broad scope and have won for him wide recognition as an able and resourceful financier who looks beyond the exigencies of the moment to the possibilities of the future. His outside interests are numerous and varied and his abilities have assisted in the building up of several of Grand Rapids' important enterprises. Mr. Conger has always been a stalwart Republican, and on several occasions has been honored by public recogni-

Hosted by Google

tion. From 1891 to 1893 he was alderman of the Second ward, and from 1898 to 1901 served as a member of the Industrial Commission, to which post he was appointed by President McKinley. He is a Thirty-second degree Mason and belongs to the Knights Templar of that order, and is a member also of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Knights of the Maccabees. He is a member of the Peninsular, Highlands Country, Lake Side and O-Wash-ta-nong clubs. Mr. Conger was married April 19, 1888, to Bertha, daughter of Henry Bretzman, of Milwaukee, Wis., and they have two children, Helen Eugenia and Chester Evans.

Frank J. Cook.—The banking interests of Grand Rapids have no more able or worthy representative than Frank J. Cook, cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank. This institution opened its doors for business only in 1914, and its success, while rapid, has been of the sound and substantial kind, and today the bank occupies a recognized position among the large and important monetary enterprises of the city. Mr. Cook has been long before the public, for prior to entering the field of finance he was the incumbent of a number of city positions, and the able and reliable manner in which he discharged the duties of these offices did much to gain him the confidence of the people, so that when he entered upon his new venture he already had a large and representative following. Frank J. Cook is a product of the agricultural community of Kent county, having been born on a farm in Paris township, Oct. 30, 1860, a son of Abraham F. and Marie L. (Patterson) Cook. His father, a native of Wayne county, Michigan, followed farming throughout the active period of his life, and is now living in comfortable retirement at Grand Rapids, while his mother, who was born in New York State, is deceased. There were two children in the family: Frank J. and Fred A., the latter of Madison Square, Grand Rapids. Frank J. Cook received his education in the country schools of Kent county and entered upon his career as an educator. For fifteen years he taught in the district schools and then for three years in the schools of Seymour, following which he entered the tax department of the city treasurer's office. After two years he was transferred to the department of the register of deeds, where he remained for three years under J. T. Gould, and the next four years were spent under Scott Griswold, in the county abstract office. He was then elected register of deeds and served in that office for three terms, or six years, and after some experience in banking matters became cashier of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, of which he was also manager five years. Mr. Cook resigned his positions with that concern to assist in the organization of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, located at 1216 Madison avenue, which was capitalized at $25,500 and threw open its doors to the public for business Aug. 1, 1914. Its officers are: William McCrodan, president; Bert M. Heth, vice-president; C. A. Mills, assistant cashier; Henry J. Kleiman, assistant cashier; Frank J. Cook, cashier; and Olive A. Casey, bookkeeper. The board of directors includes the president, vice-president and secretary and the following well-known business and professional men of Grand Rapids: Judge William B. Brown, Charles S. Deming, Lewis A. Solomon, W. A. Patterson, Edward Lennon, James E. Murphy, C. I. Patterson, F. L. Parr, Joseph Bowditch, William McCrodan, Bert M. Heth, Ray Sprague, Robert Baxter, John F. Kel-

Hosted by Google

ly, and C. R. Vanderpool. Mr. Cook is a Republican, and has always been an active worker in the interests of his party, of which he is considered a strong member in Kent county. His religious connection is with the Church of Christ, and fraternally he belongs to York Masonic Lodge No. 410, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Knights of Pythias, and Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Royal League. He also belongs to the Builders' & Traders' Exchange. Mr. Cook was married Sept. 25, 1880, to Jennie, daughter of LeRoy L. and Elza M. (Earle) Thompson, of Paris township, Kent county. They have two children: Lillian M., who is the wife of William G. Foster, of Toronto, Canada, and Arthur M., a resident of Montcalm county, Michigan. Charles A. Mills, assistant cashier of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank of Grand Rapids, was born on a farm in Paris township, Kent county, Michigan, Aug. 22, 1859, a son of Marshall B. and Rachael A. (Hurd) Mills. His father, a native of the State of New York, came to Kent county when the country was still young and here grew to manhood from the age of fifteen years. He was engaged in successful agricultural pursuits throughout his life, and died Jan. 1, 1915. In politics he was a Republican, his fraternal relation was with the Masonic lodge, and religiously he belonged to the Congregational church, of which Mrs. Mills, a native of New York who came to Kent county as a child of seven years, is also a member. They were the parents of three children: Charles A., Warren E., and Blanche, who is the wife of Fred C. Higley, of Seattle, Wash. Charles A. Mills received his education in the public schools of Coopersville, Ottawa county, Michigan, and secured his first business experience in the store of Paul Steketee & Sons, with which house he remained for sixteen years. In 1906 he went to Madison Square and established the mercantile firm of Mills & Healey, dealers in dry goods, and this business is still in existence, Mr. Healey being the active manager. Upon the organization of the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank in 1914, Mr. Mills accepted the position of assistant cashier, which he still retains. This bank is now conducting a branch at Ada, Mich., with Perry M. Dennison as manager. Mr. Mills is widely and favorably known in Grand Rapids. He is a Republican in politics, a member of Masonic York Lodge No. 410, and belongs to the Madison Square Board of Trade. He and Mrs. Mills are members of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mr. Mills was married Dec. 15, 1889, to Julia F., daughter of Chauncey C. and Emily (Averill) Stiles, of Coopersville, Mich., and of this union there has been born one daughter, Ethel M., who is the wife of H. W. Healey, her father's business partner.

Brigadier-General Louis C. Covell was born in Grand Rapids, June 22, 1875, son of Elliott and Laura Chapin Covell. His grandfather, of whom frequent mention has been made in this history, was a pioneer of Grand Rapids, in 1837. Louis C. Covell was educated in Grand Rapids and is a graduate of the high school of this city. For twelve years he was connected with the Macey Co. as advertising and sales manager, and for four years was president of the printing concern known as the Covell-Henson Co., from which he retired to devote his entire time to military service. When but seventeen years of age he joined Company I of the Michigan National Guard, on April 6, 1892. He enlisted as a private, but soon was promoted and served

Hosted by Google

for three years as corporal of Company I. On June 26, 1895, he was commissioned second lieutenant of Company K, and was the captain of this company after January, 1897. He served as captain during the Spanish-American war and his marked ability led to rapid promotion. He was commissioned major in 1900, lieutenant-colonel in 1905, colonel in January, 1911, and after serving with great credit on the Mexican border was promoted to the high rank of brigadier-general, Feb. 7, 1917. As a military leader he has the full confidence of the men under his command, and the fathers and mothers of Kent county have entrusted their sons to his keeping with the firm belief that he will not only lead the boys to glory under the flag, but that he will use every effort for their welfare. General Covell was married June 12, 1906, to Miss Florence Davidson, and their happy home at No. 449 Pleasant street, S. E., has been brightened by the advent of three sons—George, Louis, Jr., and Robert.

John A. Covode.—Whether it was fortuity or fate that led John A. Covode to Grand Rapids, in 1879, it is certain that the little growing Michigan city gained thereby a valuable citizen and that at the same time in the ambitious community there came to him excellent business opportunities, the improvement of which has since brought him to a prominent position in the business world. The period of his residence here has covered thirty-nine years, during which time the city has grown to importance among the commercial and industrial centers of the Middle West, and during thirty-six years of this time Mr. Covode has been connected with the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, one of Grand Rapids' largest and most prominent manufacturing enterprises. John A. Covode was born on a farm near Lockport, Pa., May 6, 1853, a son of John Covode. His education was secured in the public schools and at Lafayette College, Easton, Pa., in which institution he was graduated in 1876, and three years later came to Grand Rapids. He introduced himself to the people of this city in the line of milling and wholesaling, but in 1882 became identified with the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, a concern already nearly a quarter of a century old. In 1883 he was elected secretary, and this position he still retains, after thirty-five years of continuous and active service. Mr. Covode is essentially one of those who belong to the men of action of Grand Rapids. His success has been attained as a natural sequence of the unfolding and development of his native powers, and close application, indefatigable energy, integrity and determination have constituted the foundation of his achievements. The nucleus for the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company as a firm had its birth in 1859, when Julius and William A. Berkey engaged in the furniture business on Monroe street. This concern, in 1873, was incorporated as the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, with a capital of $500,000. At that time Julius Berkey was elected president, George W. Gay vice-president, and A. J. Holt, secretary. J. A. Covode came into the business as secretary in 1883, and in 1899 George G. Whitworth was made treasurer. At the time of the death of Julius Berkey, W. H. Gay became president, and in 1915 E. A. Wallace was made vice-president and manager. The business was reincorporated in 1903, and in 1911 took over the Oriel Cabinet Company, at which time it was consolidated, with its capital increased to $1,000,000, authorized. More recently the charter of the

Hosted by Google

company has been changed to permit the issuance of $200,000 in preferred and $800,000 in common stock. This concern now employs from 800 to 1,000 men, and has six salesmen on the road, its product being known throughout the Middle West and in other sections of the country. William H. Gay, president of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, was born at Grand Rapids, May 30, 1863, a son of George W. and Helen (Hovey) Gay. His father, born in Washington county, New York, in 1837, came to Grand Rapids in 1859, and for four years was engaged in the hardware and furniture business, but in 1863 became associated with William A. and Julius Berkey. He continued to be connected with this business during the rest of his active life, and died at Grand Rapids, Sept. 13, 1899. Mr. Gay married Helen Hovey, who was born at Boston, Mass., in 1835, and died at Grand Rapids in April, 1898, and they became the parents of two children: William H. and Gertrude, who is now the wife of Charles Carman, a farmer of Kent county. William H. Gay attended the public schools of Grand Rapids and has passed his entire business career with the company of which he is now the president. He is also identified with other important business enterprises and is well known in financial circles, being a director in the Fourth National, Commercial Savings, and People's Savings Banks, and the Michigan Trust Company. He is a Republican and a member of the Baptist church. Before her marriage, Mrs. Gay was Netta, daughter of Edwin Cole, of Grand Rapids. She is a member of the Congregational church.

Gilbert L. Daane.—Prominent among the young business citizens who have arisen rapidly to positions of prominence is found Gilbert L. Daane, vice-president of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. Mr. Daane's career is one which has exemplified the fact that success is to be honorably and speedily gained through the medium of hard and well-directed work, for he has advanced through his own efforts and his prosperity and position owe nothing to chance or happy circumstance. Mr. Daane was born at Grand Rapids, May 30, 1886, and is a son of Hubert and Mary (Witters) Daane. Hubert Daane was born at Zeeland, Netherlands, Nov. 28, 1861, and came to the United States as a lad of eleven years, the family locating at Grand Rapids, where he completed his education in the public schools and secured his first business experience as an employe of a hardware company. Later he entered the Grand Rapids Brush Factory, where he remained until seventeen years of age, following which he was identified for two years with the S. T. Holmes Manufacturing Company. For eight years he was with the business of J. V. & McGoosen Company, and then entered the Brown Seed Company's business, in which he was a partner for three years, or until 1892. In that year, in partnership with Leonard J. Witters, he founded the present firm of Daane & Witters, at No. 2 Monroe avenue, where, in 1917, was erected the present building, a structure 50x80 feet, where is carried a general line of groceries, fruits and vegetables. This business has grown to large proportions under energetic and well-directed management, and is now accounted one of the substantial business enterprises of the city in its line. Mr. Daane is well and favorably known to the grocery trade and in business circles generally and bears a splendid reputation for commercial and personal integrity. He is a Republican, and his religious faith is that of the Re-

Hosted by Google

formed church, he being a trustee of the Christian Reformed congregation of that denomination. On May 24, 1883, he married Mary Witters, and they have four children: Martin, of Grand Rapids; Gilbert L.; Josina, who is the wife of Dan Etheridge, of Grand Rapids, and Russell, who resides with his parents. Gilbert L. Daane was educated primarily in the graded schools and Central High School, following which he took a course in the Grand Rapids Business University. At that time he secured a position as bookkeeper with the Grand Rapids Dental Supply Company, but after ten months with that concern he decided that he needed further preparation for his career, and accordingly entered the Michigan Agricultural College, where he spent three terms. When he left college he became draft and foreign exchange clerk in the Commercial Savings Bank, was subsequently promoted to general bookkeeper, and then went to the branch of that bank, known as the South End Commercial Savings Bank, as assistant manager. In February, 1910, when the Michigan Exchange Bank, a private institution, was organized, he became cashier and continued in that capacity until Jan. 1, 1917, when that institution was taken over by the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. When this change was effected Mr. Daane became vice-president of the absorbing institution and has since remained in that position. He is also director of the Breen & Halladay Fuel Company and president and a director of the Grand Rapids Live Stock Company, and is generally known in business circles as a live and energetic man of affairs who is steadily progressing and at the same time is contributing to the city's advancement in a business and financial way. His political views make him a Republican. An active member of the Christian Reformed church, he is treasurer of the Sunday school, and is also aiding otherwise in religious and moral education, being treasurer and a director of both the Young Men's Christian Association and the Rescue Mission of Grand Rapids. In a social way he is a general favorite, and finds time from his business responsibilities to take part in the activities of the Grand Rapids Golf, Plainfield Automobile and Rotary clubs, and the Knickerbocker Society, of which he is a member. Mr. Daane was married June 15, 1909, to Mamie, daughter of Ralph and Elizabeth (Quartell) Blocksma, of Grand Rapids, and they have two children: Gilbert Warren, seven years old, and Mary Elizabeth, aged three years.

William B. Dale.—The manager of the Creston Branch of the Kent State Bank, William B. Dale has been identified with this prominent Grand Rapids financial institution since 1906 and has risen to his present capacity through the various positions, starting with that of clerk. He is one of the men who have made a success in the community of their birth, as he is a native son of Grand Rapids, and was born Aug. 12, 1881, his parents being John and Jessie W. (Muir) Dale. John Dale was born at Detroit, Mich., and as a young man enlisted for service in the Civil war, becoming a corporal in Company B, Engineers and Mechanics regiment of Michigan volunteers, with which he served four years. Some time after the close of that struggle he came to Grand Rapids, as an engineer, and for many years was connected with the establishment of Mr. Withey, but is now retired from active labor. He is a Democrat, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and belongs to the Episcopal church. Mrs.

Hosted by Google

Dale was born in Scotland and came to the United States with her parents in girlhood. She and her husband have the following children: Robert H., Frank A., Oden F., John C. and William B., all of Grand Rapids; Daisy, wife of Ellery Carter, of Lansing, Mich.; Grace, wife of William D. Carew, of Grand Rapids, and Jane, widow of E. A. Morse, formerly of this city. William B. Dale received a public graded and high school education at Grand Rapids and began his independent career with the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company, with which concern he remained only a few months. He then entered the car shops of the G. R. & I. railway, where he was employed five years, and Jan. 2, 1906, entered the Kent State Bank, in the capacity of clerk. Upon mastering the duties connected with this position, he was advanced to bookkeeper, and later to teller, and in July, 1913, was made manager of the Creston Branch of this institution. He has taken a well-won position as one of the energetic and capable young financiers of the Furniture City, displaying, in the discharge of his official duties, a thorough and comprehensive understanding of financial conditions and problems, and has been of undoubted value to his house in the securing of additional and important business. In political matters Mr. Dale follows his own judgment, preferring not to be led by party traditions or ties, and as a citizen takes an active and helpful part in public-spirited movements of civic import, being a member of the Creston Citizens' Association, He is fraternally affiliated with Doric Lodge of the Masonic order, and is an Episcopalian in religion. Mr. Dale was married Sept. 11, 1915, to Bertha, daughter of Rev. Charles F. and Nellie Smith, of Grand Rapids.

Ira B. Dalrymple.—Although he has been identified with banking and financial affairs at Grand Rapids only since 1913, Ira B. Dalrymple already occupies a position of prestige as cashier of the Grand Rapids National City Bank. In the year mentioned he came to this city to accept a minor position with another institution, and his ability and fidelity have since won him advancement to his present place. Mr. Dalrymple was born at Brilliant, Jefferson county, Ohio, Sept. 1, 1882, and is a son of Ellis and Anna (White) Dalrymple. His parents were natives of Ohio, but when Ira B. was a lad the family removed to Washington, D. C., where his father had been appointed to a government position in the Pension Department. Ellis Dalrymple died at the Capital, while still in the employ of the United States, and Mrs. Dalrymple still survives him and makes her home there. Ira B. Dalrymple received his education in Washington, and there his first experience in the banking business was obtained. He was industrious and intelligent, quick to grasp every opportunity to master the perplexities of banking, and so won steady promotion. When he came to Grand Rapids, Feb. 17, 1913, it was to enter the Grand Rapids Savings Bank in the capacity of paying teller, being subsequently advanced to assistant cashier. In the same year he transferred his services to the City Trust Bank, as cashier, and Jan. 11, 1916, became cashier of the Grand Rapids National City Bank, which office he still retains. Mr. Dalrymple is well known to the banking fraternity of the city and has become popular with the patrons of the institution which he represents. He was married Nov. 4, 1913, to Agnes, daughter of Frank Jewell, of Grand Rapids, and they have one son, John Ellis.

Hosted by Google

Alfred A. De Lisle.—From the year 1872 until his death, which occurred Oct. 27, 1907, the late Alfred A. DeLisle was identified with several important interests at Grand Rapids, and several of his achievements are worthy of more than passing attention. He belonged to that class of men whose inventive genius has won them fame in the past several decades in addition to adding to the reputation of the city, and it was his fortune to have been associated with some of the leading men in the furniture and office fixture manufacturing trade of his time. Mr. DeLisle was a native of Waterloo, N. Y., born Sept. 2, 1852, son of Charles Eli DeLisle. His father, a stone-cutter by trade, came to the West when Alfred A. was still a small boy, and after spending a short time at Lowell, Kent county, moved to Dubuque, Ia., and there rounded out his career as a worker at his trade. The public schools of Dubuque furnished Alfred A. DeLisle with his educational training, and in 1872, when he had not yet attained his majority, he came to Grand Rapids and secured a position in the factory of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, working at the trade of cabinet-maker, which he had mastered at Dubuque. While there, he was not content to merely work for wages, but was constantly studying and experimenting, and this industry and ambition led him to make a number of inventions. However, his first one found practicable was what is known as the knock-down show case, and, this being followed by others, about the year 1890 he organized the Grand Rapids Handscrew Company, to manufacture articles under his patents. He was vice-president and manager of this company until he sold out to the Wilmarth Show Case Company, following which he went to Coapa, Mexico, and there engaged in the lumber business. After four years Mr. DeLisle returned to Grand Rapids and here lived quietly until his death, in 1907. Mr. DeLisle was justly accounted as being possessed of inventive genius of a high order, and his patents always showed a touch of ingenuity that lifted them above the ordinary. In their range they included numerous articles, large and small, giving an idea of the inventor's versatility, and Mr. DeLisle also possessed what is not commonly found among men of his peculiar talents, business ability and a capacity for the successful management of his own interests. In his dealings with his fellows he was the soul of honor and his name in commercial and manufacturing circles stood for a respect and recognition of high business ethics. Politically a Democrat, he did not care for the honors of the political arena, but sought to show his good citizenship in his support of worthy and progressive civic movements and educational and charitable enterprises. His fraternal connection was with the Knights of Columbus, and he was a charter member of the Commercial Men's Association at Grand Rapids. With Mrs. DeLisle, who survives him and resides at 431 Paris avenue, S. E., he belonged to St. Andrews' Catholic church. Mr. DeLisle was married June 27, 1878, to Margaret, daughter of Patrick and Margaret (McAvoy) Fanning, of Dubuque, Ia.

Hon. Arthur C. Denison.—Among the men recently selected as a judge in the United States Court of Appeals is Hon. Arthur Carter Denison, of Grand Rapids. For more than a quarter of a century he had been a lawyer, and while engaged as an advocate directed many important cases to a successful issue. Judge Arthur Carter

Hosted by Google

Denison was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 10, 1861, son of Julius C. and Cornelia (Carter) Denison. Julius Coe Denison was born in Western New York and came to Grand Rapids in 1855, taking up 160 acres of land, now bounded by Burton, Hall and Jefferson streets. He continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life and passed away at Grand Rapids, full of years and with the respect and confidence of his community, as did also Mrs. Denison. The only one of his parents' children to survive infancy, Arthur C. Denison received his preliminary education in the graded and high schools of Grand Rapids, graduating in the latter in 1878. Soon thereafter he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, and, after receiving his degree of Bachelor of Laws, in 1883 commenced practice in the city of his birth. His first experience was secured in the office of Mr. Taggart, whose partner he became three years later, and this combination, known as Taggart & Denison, continued until 1900, later becoming Taggart, Knappen & Denison, and finally Denison & Wilson. In 1903 he was elected president of the Grand Rapids Bar Association; in 1904 and 1905 he was a member of the Board of Education, of which he also served as president, and in 1906 and 1907 he was president of the Michigan State Bar Association. He came to the forefront as acceptable judicial timber in 1910, and in that year was appointed United States district judge. In the following year he was made United States Circuit Judge, for the Sixth Circuit, and under the new law became judge of the United States Court of Appeals. Judge Denison is a Republican and a member of the Kent County and Peninsular clubs. He is affiliated with the Park Congregational church. In 1886 he was married to Susie L., daughter of Hiram Goodrich, of Grand Rapids. She died in 1896, leaving three sons—John, Donald and Arthur, all of Grand Rapids. The Judge's second marriage occurred in 1898, when he was united with Julia, daughter of Herman G. Barlow, of Grand Rapids. They have one daughter, Miss Ruth, who resides with her parents.

Willis G. Dollaway, whom it is no invidious comparison to designate as one of the foremost farmers of Lowell township, and no empty tribute to pronounce one of its leading citizens, is now the owner of 140 acres of well-cultivated and valuable land, located in Section 8, where he has modern improvements and all the conveniences of Twentieth-century country life. When he embarked upon his career as a farmer several decades ago, Mr. Dollaway swung away from his first and earliest interests, for he began life as a worker in the mercantile world and was identified with commercial affairs during a long period. He was born in the State of New York, Oct. 29, 1863, son of Andrew and Arvilla (Mathews) Dollaway, natives of Schuyler county, New York, the latter of whom died when her son was three years old. Andrew Dollaway was a well-known horseman, as well as a canal boatman, and in his latter years came to Michigan, where he died. There were two sons in the family—Frank, who was a resident of Grand Rapids and died Jan. 11, 1918, and Willis G. Willis G. Dollaway was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and when still a lad began to contribute to his own support, securing a position as cashboy in the mercantile establishment of Jacob Barth. He remained with that store for a period of seventeen years,

Hosted by Google

steadily working his way to better positions, and when he left that store was connected for one year with the firm of Herpolsheimer. At that time he turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, his first purchase being a tract of forty acres, located in Lowell township, which now forms a part of his home farm. From time to time he has added to his acreage, improvements and equipment, and his property is now one of the valuable ones of the community and reflects the enterprise and business ability of its owner. His 140 acres are under a state of cultivation and, being operated under modern methods, are yielding excellent returns. For some years Mr. Dollaway specialized in breeding race-horse stock, but has now disposed of all his running horses and devotes his time entirely to general farming. While he is not a seeker for political honors or public position, he takes a keen interest in affairs which affect the welfare of his community, and willingly extends his co-operation and assistance to any movements which promise to be beneficial in the way of securing progress. His fraternal connections are with the Knights of the Maccabees and the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. Dollaway was married Oct. 3, 1885, to Frances, daughter of Joseph and Adelia (De Gau) Denney, of Lowell township and of French descent. Mr. Denney, a native of Montreal, Canada, and a stone mason by trade, was for several years a resident of New York, from which state he came to Lowell township, Kent county, in 1864, purchasing forty acres of land which was still covered with the virgin timber. There he spent the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits, and at his death was the owner of 157 acres of well-improved land. He was a Democrat in politics, and both he and Mrs. Denney, who is also deceased, were faithful members of the Catholic church at Lowell. Their children were as follows: Adelia, widow of the late Francis Hughes, of Providence, R. I.; Joseph, a farmer of Lowell township; Henry, deceased; Hattie married U. S. Berry, who for forty-two years has been connected with the postoffice at Grand Rapids; Adolph, a resident of Montana; Edward, deceased; Josephine, wife of Newton Henry, of Chicago; Lewis, of Cascade, Mich.; Jennie married George Coffey, of Grand Rapids; Frederick, of Chicago; Frances, wife of Mr. Dollaway; Sarraphan, deceased; Emma, single and a resident of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Archie, of Phillips, S. D. Mr. and Mrs. Dollaway have had the following children: Roy, of Lowell township, who has one son, Clarence; Clarence and Harold, who are deceased; Floyd, with the 30th Engineers' Medical department in France; Lulah, deceased; Cecil, who resides with her parents; Edward, deceased; and Leona and Glenn, who live at home.

Captain Lewis J. Donovan was born at Irving, Mich., July 29, 1889, removing in his youth to Grand Rapids and receiving his education in the parochial schools and the Grand Rapids High School. In this city he has been identified with the clothing business, in the employ of C. A. Daniels. On June 14, 1911, he was married to Miss Florence Cargill, and they have one daughter, Georgiana. He enlisted in what was then Company H, May 31, 1909, as a private, and was soon promoted and served as a corporal during the Grand Trunk strike at Durand. He became a sergeant, May 31, 1912, second lieutenant, Dec. 12, 1913, first lieutenant, June 28, 1915, and captain of the new Company I, March 31, 1917.

Hosted by Google

Rudolph Doornink.—Among the officials of Grand Rapids, one who through long connection with the city government and excellent services rendered in the discharging of his official duties has gained a substantial and lasting place in the confidence of the public, is Rudolph Doornink, the present incumbent of the office of city comptroller. A resident of Grand Rapids since 1868, his training and experience have been secured in this community, and he is a representative of those who have so truly absorbed the best spirit of the city and the times. Mr. Doornink was born at Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 27, 1859, a son of Derk J. and Amelia (Harmsen) Doornink. His parents, natives of the Netherlands, came to the United States about 1847, locating first at Milwaukee and subsequently, in 1868, changing their residence to Grand Rapids, where both passed away. They were faithful members of the Reformed Church of America, and Mr. Doornink, who for some years was engaged in business here, was a Republican in his political allegiance. Of the six children of Derk J. and Amelia Doornink, five survive and but two are living in Grand Rapids—Rudolph, and Gertrude, who is the wife of Daniel C. Stekетee. The others are: William F. C. Doornink, of Kalamazoo; Mrs. Effie Koke, of Los Angeles, Cal., and Mrs. Minnie Dosker, of Louisville, Ky. Rudolph Doornink attended the public schools of Milwaukee and Grand Rapids, and when his educational training was completed became associated with his father in the elder man's business activities. From the time that he reached his majority he was interested in public affairs and took a more or less active part therein, and finally a general recognition of his ability and popular qualities was followed by a public acknowledgement of his natural capacity and powers of initiative. During a period of ten years he was identified with the city's government as an employe of the city clerk's office, where he won advancement through industry and fidelity, and eventually he was chosen as the candidate of the Republican party for the office of city comptroller, to which he was duly elected and the duties of which he has since discharged in a highly efficient and satisfactory manner. He belongs to the Second Reformed church and is variously identified with the club and fraternal life of the city. Mr. Doornink was married, Aug. 29, 1889, to Miss Elizabeth Hoogenboom, daughter of Peter Hoogenboom, of Rochester, N. Y., and they have two children: R. Francis and Ruth F., both living with their parents. Thus Mr. Doornink's progressive and promising career has been rounded out in the way most fitting to the true American citizen, who, whatever his many activities, is anchored to his wife, his children and his home.

Michael J. Downes.—The present conditions relative to agriculture in any section are largely due to the intelligent efforts of men who, for many years, have devoted themselves to bettering farm conditions, thus at the same time adding to their own prosperity, advancing their community's progress and helping the industry in general. In this class undoubtedly stands Michael J. Downes, of Vergennes township, who has passed his entire life in labors connected with agricultural work and whose present prosperity is the outcome of years of industry along the most modern lines of farming activities. Mr. Downes was born on a farm in Ada township, Kent county, Michigan, Nov. 16, 1859, son of Michael and Hannah (Farrell) Downes.

Hosted by Google

Michael Downes was born in Ireland, where he was reared and educated, and as a young man, without appreciable means, emigrated to the United States in search of his fortune. Coming to Grand Rapids, he was married to Hannah Farrell, who was of Irish descent, but a native of New York City, and their first experience in farming was secured on a green farm in Ada township, consisting of eighty acres. When they had brought that property under cultivation and were making it a paying venture, they added to it 160 acres, and continued to be numbered among the worthy and industrious people of their community for many years. After a long period spent in general farming, they retired from active pursuits, and Mr. Downes died in August, 1917, at his home in Ada township, Mrs. Downes having died in March, 1907. They were the parents of ten sons and four daughters: John, of Vergennes township; Michael J.; Mary, unmarried and resides with her brother Joseph; Joseph, of Ada; Charles, Patrick and Thomas, deceased; Rev. Frank, a priest of the Roman Catholic faith at Proremont, Mich.; Rose, wife of John Kinney, and resides at Kinney Station; Garrett, of Vergennes township; Ed, deceased; Margaret, deceased; Katherine, who resides at Detroit; and Mark, deceased. Michael J. Downes was educated in the district schools of Ada township and was brought up on the home farm, where he assisted his father. In order to add to the family income, these sturdy and industrious men each winter for ten years labored in the lumber woods of Michigan, and with the means thus gained Michael J. Downes finally settled down to farming on a tract of 160 acres in Vergennes township. His labors, intelligently directed, were attended by success, and he was able to add to his acreage from time to time, so that today he is owner of a splendid tract of 360 acres, making one of the best farms of his township. In addition to general farming, Mr. Downes carries on stock-raising, specializing in Short Horn cattle, Percheron horses and a good grade of sheep, and his product from all departments meets with a ready and appreciative market. Mr. Downes is justly regarded as a representative of the best class of farmers in his neighborhood, and his farm buildings and equipment reflect the progressive spirit that has at all times led him to put into his work the kind of material that has given his community its prestige in matters agricultural. Politically, he is a Democrat. An indication of the confidence and esteem in which he is held in his community is the fact that for seventeen years he served as justice of the peace, during which time he rendered his fellow-citizens the kind of service that makes for community harmony and absolute justice. He was reared in the faith of the Catholic church and has always been true to its beliefs. Mr. Downes was united in marriage, April 14, 1891, to Mary, daughter of the late Thomas and Mary A. (Ward) Doyle, of Kent county. Mr. Doyle was born in Ireland and Mrs. Doyle in Philadelphia, Pa. His parents died while he was young and he came to America with an uncle. He bought from the government the land where Mr. and Mrs. Downes reside, and this he cleared and there developed a home. There his wife died, but he passed away in the village of Lowell. Mr. and Mrs. Doyle were the parents of twelve children, three of whom survive.

James C. Droste, M. D.—Among the various vocations to which men devote themselves, there is one—that of the physician—which

Hosted by Google

opens to its members an almost unbelievably wide range of usefulness. Its province is many-sided, and that special phase which accomplishes the more than splendid work of preserving life says nothing of the world of sorrow that is banished or of happiness restored. Those who study the art, mellowed and enriched as they are through association with humanity unmasked, are possessed of a priceless gift in their ability to answer the command to "heal the sick." Among the physicians of Grand Rapids whose ability to serve their fellowmen has brought them to places of prominence, one of the younger element is James C. Droste. While engaged in practice here only since 1913, he has already gained the confidence of many and is carrying on a brilliant and valuable work as a member of the medical staff of the Burleson Sanitarium. Dr. Droste was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 21, 1886, and is the eldest of seven children born to Dr. Casper M. and Mary (O'Donohoe) Droste. His father, born in Clinton county, Michigan, was educated in the Catholic schools, the University of Michigan, where he spent two years, and the Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, in which institution he was graduated with his degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1885. For thirty-two years he has been engaged in the practice of medicine at Grand Rapids, where he has a large and important clientele and is regarded as one of the most eminent members of the profession. The early education of James C. Droste was secured in the parochial schools of the Catholic church, following which he entered St. Jerome's College, at Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, and graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Philosophy. He next spent almost three years at the University of Michigan, and then to have the advantages of greater clinical work he entered the medical department of the University of Illinois, at Chicago, in which he was graduated with the class of 1913, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Droste immediately entered upon the practice of his profession at St. Mary's hospital, Grand Rapids, where he was house physician for eight months, and April 20, 1914, joined the staff of the Burleson Sanitarium, with which well known institution he has since been connected. He has demonstrated the possession of skill as a practioner and diagnostician, as well as in the operating room, and it is his fortune to possess those qualities which enlighten the sick room. In the regard of his professional brethren and in the calling generally, his standing is high as a physician who respects the ethics of medicine. He belongs to the Phi-Chi, medical fraternity, the Grandview Automobile club, and the Knights of Columbus, and to the St. Andrew's Catholic church and the C. M. B. A. In his political adherence he is a Democrat. Dr. Droste was married, Nov. 16, 1916, to Ada Katherine, daughter of John Kain, of Jennings, Mich., and they are the parents of one son, James Casper, Jr., born Sept. 15, 1917.

H. Monroe Dunham.—As compared with many of the biographies of men in this work who have, in the legal profession, attained eminence and secured for themselves high reputations, as well as material prosperity, H. Monroe Dunham is but a beginner in the field at Grand Rapids. Yet of none of the younger generation can it be said that the foundation for whatever success, popularity or honor the future has in store, has been more firmly, perseveringly or with greater wisdom laid than in his case. Mr. Dunham was born at Cadil-

Hosted by Google

lac, Wexford county, Michigan, March 26, 1885, a son of Hon. Major L. and Sophia (Heimes) Dunham. Judge Major L. Dunham was born, March 19, 1850, in Oakland county, Michigan, a son of John and Mary A. (McDermott) Dunham. He attended the public schools of Highland and studied law in the office of G. H. Beardsley, and, being admitted to the bar in October, 1875, was for four years prosecuting attorney of Ontonagon county and for three years city attorney of Cadillac. He was in partnership with his brother, H. M. Dunham, until 1887, in which year he came to Grand Rapids, and here, in June, 1907, formed a law association with his son, H. Monroe, which continued until the elder man was elevated to the bench, in May, 1914. Judge Dunham was married, Oct. 16, 1875, to Sophia Heimes, and they have two children: Gertrude, who is the wife of T. H. Camp, of San Francisco, Cal., and H. Monroe. H. Monroe Dunham was two years of age when brought to Grand Rapids and here attended the graded and high school, graduating in the latter with the class of 1903. The two years that followed were spent at the University of Chicago, and for three years he attended Northwestern University, at Evanston, Ill., being graduated in the law department in 1908. He had been admitted to the bar, April 17, 1907, and in June of that year commenced practice with his father, his cousin, John M. Dunham, later being admitted to the firm. Since May, 1914, Mr. Dunham has practiced alone. He has already a large clientele and a very enviable reputation as a successful lawyer, the first attributable to the fact that he possesses the faculty of making and keeping friends, his life being ordered and governed by those principles which men recognize as sound, just and right, and the second to his natural ability, enabling him to quickly grasp his subject, apply the points of law applicable to his case with a flow of eloquence, a conviction of manner and soundness of argument which usually results in a verdict in his favor. Mr. Dunham is a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar Association, belongs to York Lodge of Masons and to the Elks, and holds membership in the Highlands Golf and Peninsular clubs. He was united in marriage, Sept. 23, 1908, with Miss Daisy, daughter of Charles W. and Marian (Mosher) Findlater, of Detroit, Mich. They have two children: Dorothy E. and Harrison M.

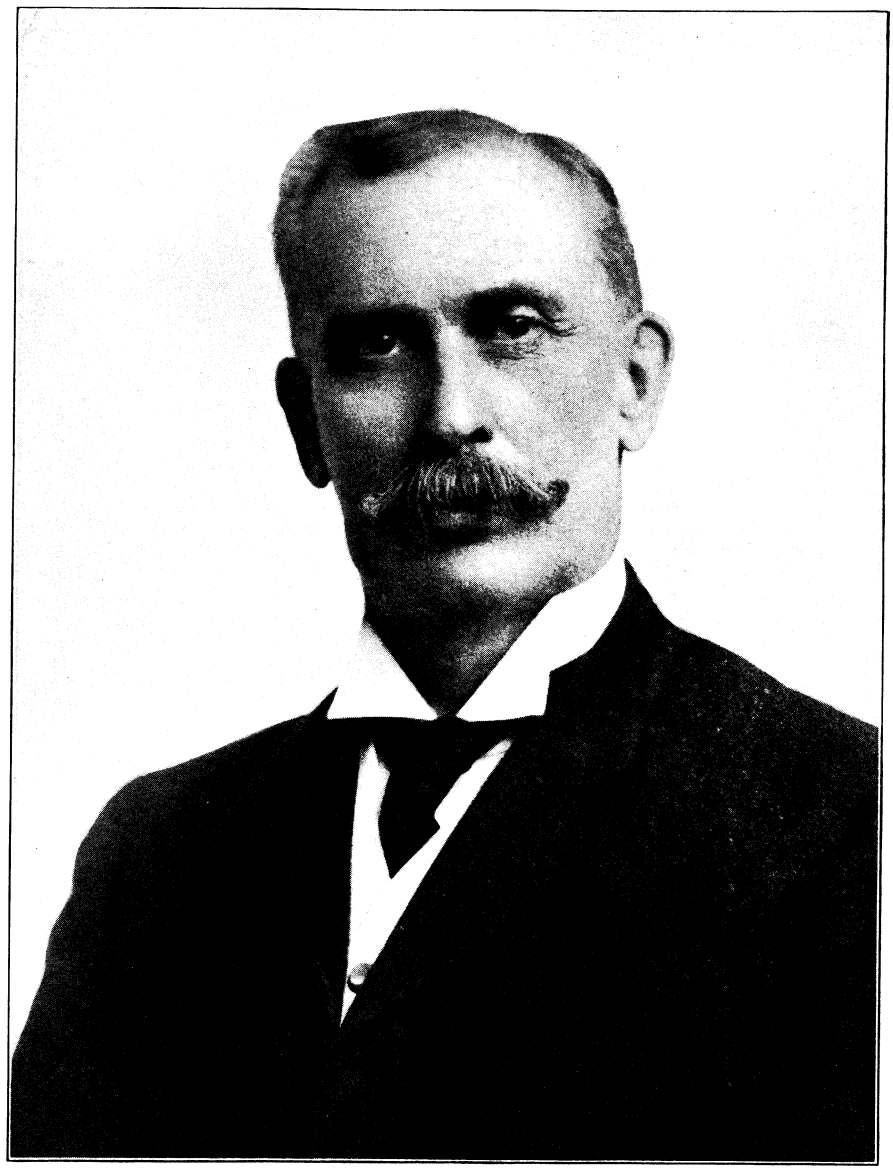
John M. Dunham.—The high professional average of the younger element of the legal fraternity of Grand Rapids, as exemplified in the prominence attained by a large proportion of its numbers, their marked ability as orators, exhaustive knowledge of the fundamental principles of the law, and the vigor, energy and shrewdness with which they present and try their cases, has made the Grand Rapids bar well known throughout the country, and in comparison with that of other large cities the envy of many in this respect. The name heading this sketch is that of one of the best known of the generation of lawyers to which reference was made, from the fact that his success at the bar has shown him to be possessed of most, if not all, of those qualifications which are requisite to the conduct of a large and varied law practice, and the more than ordinary degree of success which has attended him thus early in his career is merely evidence of his ability to properly apply them in his chosen profession. John M. Dunham was born at Cadillac, the county seat of Wexford county, Michigan,

Hosted by Google

July 16, 1888, a son of Hon. Harrison M. and Kittie (Parks) Dunham. His father was born in Livingston county, Michigan, April 25, 1857, and received an ordinary education, following which for several years he taught school in the country districts of Iron county. His ambitions, however, were placed much beyond those of the country schoolmaster, and during his brief period of probation he gave all of his spare time to study, so that when he entered the law offices of his father-in-law, George Parks, he was already well grounded in the principles of the vocation which he had determined to follow. Mr. Dunham began practice at Cadillac about the year 1878 and for nearly two decades followed his profession there, building up a good clientele and winning the confidence of his fellow-practitioners and of the public. In 1897 he took up his residence at Grand Rapids, where he entered practice as a partner of Judge M. L. Dunham, and continued in this association until 1902. In that year he practically retired from practice and went to Alma, Mich., where he died, March 4, 1904, and where Mrs. Dunham still makes her home. A Republican in politics, Judge Dunham took an active part in public affairs and was accounted one of the strong men of his party in the several communities in which he resided. As police judge of Cadillac and as judge of the Probate Court of Wexford county, he established excellent records, and few jurists had in greater degree the respect of bench, bar and public. He was widely known in fraternal circles of the state, holding membership in the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Maccabees, the Odd Fellows and the Woodmen, and his religious connection was with the Methodist Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Dunham, who was born at Marquette, Mich., Feb. 23, 1866, and who survives him and lives at Alma, is also a member. They were the parents of seven children, as follows: Alberta, who resided at New Orleans, La., and died June 10, 1917; Sophia, who is the wife of Prof. F. W. Moore, of the Minnesota Normal School, Winona, Minn.; John M.; Homer M., of Alma, Mich.; Esther, of Springfield, Minn., a teacher in the public schools; and Ruth and Donald, who reside with their mother. John M. Dunham received the rudiments of his education in the public schools of Alma, and after his graduation in the high school entered Alma college, graduating about the time he attained his majority, in 1909. He then entered the department of law of the University of Michigan, being graduated in 1911, and at once commenced practice at Alma, where he was appointed acting prosecuting attorney of Gratiot county. Mr. Dunham came to Grand Rapids, Dec. 1, 1913, to enter into partnership with M. L. and H. Monroe Dunham, and this combination continued until M. L. Dunham was elevated to the bench, in 1916, since which time he has been practicing alone. His large professional business, while it has been principally in the county courts, is rapidly extending to the whole varied field of general litigation, both in the state and federal jurisdictions. Mr. Dunham is a member of the Kent County Bar Association, is a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias, and belongs to the O-Wash-ta-nong club. His marriage was solemnized, Jan. 30, 1917, on which date he was united with Miss Adeline, daughter of Frank E. and Zora (Dakin) Rogers, of Grand Rapids.

Hon. Major L. Dunham was elected a judge of the Superior court of Kent county in 1915. During forty years previous to that

Hosted by Google



W. L. Dunham

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

he had been engaged in the practice of law. For more than four decades it has been his business to discern the actions and purposes of men, and it is generally recognized by practitioners and litigants that no one on the Grand Rapids bench is better informed on criminal procedure or inspires greater confidence in the prompt and impartial administration of justice than he. Judge Dunham was born at Highland, Oakland county, Michigan, March 19, 1850, a son of John and Mary (Lockwood) Dunham. His parents were farming people of Oakland county and passed the last years of their lives at Alma, where both died. He was reared on the homestead farm and secured a good education in his youth, attending the county schools in the vicinity of his home, the high schools at Hartland and Howell, Michigan, and the seminary at Fenton, Mich., where he remained one and one-half years. After leaving the latter institution, he adopted the vocation of school teacher as a medium through which to make a living while he was preparing himself for the law, his chosen profession. He found a number of obstacles in his path and the time passed slowly and discouragingly, yet not once in the thirteen years did he falter in his purpose, and his perseverence and patient effort were finally rewarded, for, after he had served for three years as principal of the schools at Greenland, in Ontonagon county, he was admitted to the bar there in October, 1875. He was almost immediately appointed prosecuting attorney of the county, where the people had come to have confidence in the young lawyer's ability and integrity, and he continued to hold that office for a period of eight years, during which he established an excellent record. He then resigned and went to Cadillac, but not until he had had some experience in the field of journalism, having founded the Ontonagon Herald, a newspaper which he published until he left. At Cadillac he was engaged in practice in association with his brother for six years, during three years of which time he also served as city attorney, but in December, 1887, sold his practice at that place and came to Grand Rapids. Here he formed a partnership with Godwin & Adsit, with whom he was associated for two years, and then opened a law office of his own. He continued in the enjoyment of a constantly growing practice until April 12, 1915, when he was elevated to the Superior bench by the vote of the people. With all his years of experience with the delinquent element of human society, Judge Dunham, while his insight of the faults and guile of mankind has been sharpened, has preserved and constantly manifests a kindliness and sympathy in his dealings with litigants that make him one of the most esteemed judges in Kent county. His unfailing common sense preserves him from the pedantry of law, and having been a close and thorough student under the impetus of his own determination, he has become fully and practically equipped to meet any emergency within the scope of his judicial duties. He holds membership in the Kent County Bar association and the Michigan State Bar association, and is a Mason and an Elk. With his family, he belongs to the Presbyterian church. Judge Dunham was married, Oct. 16, 1875, to Miss Sophie Heimes, daughter of August Heimes, of Greenland, Mich., and of this union there have been born two children: Gertrude, wife of Talcott H. Camp, of San Francisco, Cal., and H. Monroe, an attorney-at-law in Grand Rapids.

Hosted by Google

George M. Edison.—While the history of the late George M. Edison is connected with the past of Kent county rather than the present, his death having occurred in 1912, he is entitled to representation in a work dealing with the lives and achievements of the men of this locality, for during a long and active career he was identified with the agricultural interests of this locality, and on his retirement to Grand Rapids became one of the useful and helpful citizens of his community. It was not his fortune to have been connected with public life or to have emblazoned his name on the records of great financial achievements, but his life was a wholesome and instructive one, teaching lessons on the value of industry, fidelity and honesty, and showing the satisfying rewards to be gained through following paths of rectitude. Mr. Edison was born in Ontario, Canada, June 10, 1829, a son of Moses and Jane (Saxton) Edison. His parents, natives of Nova Scotia, moved to Ontario not long after their marriage, and in 1839 came to Kent county, Michigan, locating on a farm which is now situated on Bridge Street, Grand Rapids. There they passed the remaining years of their lives in agricultural pursuits and died with the full regard and respect of the people in whose midst they had lived. George M. Edison received his early education in the public schools of Canada, but completed his educational training in Kent county, where he attended the district schools from his tenth year until he was in his early "teens." He was reared as an agriculturist and to habits of industry and sobriety, and when he attained manhood engaged in farming on his own account, and so successful was he in his operations that, at the age of fifty-four years, in 1883, he was able to retire from active pursuits. At that time he moved into the city, where he surrounded himself with the comforts earned through his years of hard and faithful labor, and continued to live in quiet retirement until his demise, which occurred May 19, 1912, when he was nearly eighty-four years of age. Mr. Edison was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, supported its movements generously, and for several years served as a member of its board of trustees. He was a Republican, but did not care for public life, and only served his party by casting his vote for its candidates. Mr. Edison was married, Nov. 12, 1851, to Miss Lucinda, daughter of Henry and Sarah (Denton) Helmka, of Kent county, who died March 26, 1886. They became the parents of the following children: William H., who is deceased; Julia E., who has also passed away; Georgianna E., who is the widow of Ferdinand A. Hall, of Grand Rapids; Lafayette E., of Grand Rapids, who has one daughter, Helen Jean; and Sarah Elnora, also of Grand Rapids. In 1888, Mr. Edison married Mrs. Mary E. Bryan, a native of Canada, and she is now a resident of Los Angeles, Cal.

William H. Edwards.—The practical development of an early idea and the utilization and application of specially gained knowledge have gained for William H. Edwards a place of importance in the business world of Grand Rapids, although his activities have not been confined to the limits of this city, his influence in the general stationery field extending over a wide territory. His success has been due entirely to his own efforts and abilities, and in the capacities of vice-president and manager of sales and factory of the Proudfit Loose Leaf Company he has found an appreciative medium through which his natural talents can be fully exercised. Mr. Edwards was born at

Hosted by Google

Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 9, 1872, son of William Henford and Harriet (Beardsley) Edwards. His father, a native of Huntington, Conn., was a textile manufacturer in the East, and on coming to Michigan became the owner of the Saginaw Courier-Herald, which he conducted several years. Later he became interested in lumber, and his holdings in this respect grew to such an extent that eventually he gave up newspaper work for the lumber industry, which he engaged in up to the time of his death, at the age of eighty-four years. He was a Democrat and served as alderman of Saginaw for several years, in addition to which he displayed his good citizenship by other acts of public service. He belonged to the Commercial club and to the Masonic fraternity and was a member of the Episcopal church. Mrs. Edwards, who was born at Bridgeport, Conn., still survives at an advanced age and is a resident of Saginaw. There were four children in the family: Mayme, who is deceased; Charles Henry and Florence Isabelle, of Saginaw; and William H. William H. Edwards received his education in the graded schools and high school at Saginaw and as a youth learned the printing and binding business with his father, with whom he was also for a time engaged in the lumber business. In 1904 he first came to Grand Rapids, where he secured employment with the Grand Rapids Lithographing Company, with which concern he was connected for one and one-half years, at the end of that time going to the Michigan lumber country and becoming the proprietor of a general store at Greenwood. This he conducted with a fair measure of success for several years, then the big city called him and, in 1909, he returned to Grand Rapids and once more entered the employ of the Grand Rapids Lithographing Company, this time in charge of the binding department, a position which he retained for two years. Mr. Edwards then became owner of this department by purchase and organized a concern under the name of Edwards-Hine Company. The company started to do binding only, but subsequently put in a complete plant to do printing, stationery, office supplies, etc., and while he was thus in business Mr. Edwards attended the first National Business Show, at Chicago, where he saw the Proudfit binder. At once realizing the possibilities of this improved device, he made arrangements to handle the Michigan territory and within a year had secured the entire United States for the selling rights of the patent. After about three years he entered the Proudfit Loose Leaf Company, as vice-president and sales and factory manager, positions which he holds at this time. Mr. Edwards is one of the live, energetic men of the city, a product of the enterprising Middle West, and one of the best informed men in his line in the country. He is an active member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce and is fraternally connected with the local lodges of Elks and Foresters, and with his family belongs to the Episcopal church. He is a Republican. Mr. Edwards was married, Oct. 14, 1896, to Gertrude Cynthia, daughter of John F. and Eliza (Mather) Lucia, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of six children, all residing at home: Harriet E., William Harold, Doris Lucia, John Franklin, Jean Isabelle and James Maxwell.

Riley Eldred.—One of the old and highly respected families of Kent county is that bearing the name of Eldred, whose arrival here occurred during the section's first settlement, when the original pioneers were still blazing the trail for civilization. For the greater part

Hosted by Google

its members have been identified with agricultural pursuits, and this has been the vocation of a worthy member of the family now living in the Cedar Springs community, Riley Eldred. Mr. Eldred has been a resident of this part of Kent county throughout his life and is numbered among the men whose progressive methods and energetic spirit have assisted in advancing the country and in developing its interests. He was born on a farm in Courtland township, July 19, 1877, son of Charles Eldred, the first of the family to locate here. Charles Eldred came to this state from Ohio, where he had been only reasonably successful. As a young man he became a shingle shaver, but as he noted the possibilities of the fertile soil here when well managed and treated in a proper manner, he turned his attention to agriculture, a field in which he met with merited prosperity. He cleared his land from the timber and brush, cultivated it, built improvements and erected buildings, and lived to see his once worthless property develop into a smiling and productive farm, bringing in a substantial revenue and representing an acquisition well worth working for. Mr. Eldred married Areno Phelps and they became the parents of eight children —Mary, Martha, Riley, Harvey, Clayton, Ernie, Claude and Vera. The boys in this family all followed the example of their father and engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which all succeeded, this probably being because of their excellent early training. Riley Eldred, like his brothers, was given a thorough instruction in all the things that combine to make the successful farmer. In his boyhood his mind was given training in the district schools, but in the summer months he put in much time at hard work, and thus was brought up in a healthy and useful way, both in body and mind. When he had passed his majority he became a farmer in his own right and this vocation has been his chief one ever since, and he has had no desire to leave it. At this time Mr. Eldred's home place is what is known as the Decou farm, an eighty-acre farm which is an excellent producer. Under Mr. Eldred's able management it has been made to yield large crops, for which his business ability allows him to gain fine prices. Mr. Eldred married Miss Jacobs, daughter of A. E. Jacobs, of Nelson township, who has been engaged in farming here for many years. Of this union there have been born eight children, as follows: Bernice, wife of William Day, who is now in the United States army, field artillery; Eula, who is attending the Nelson high school; and Leon, Thelma, Norma, Lyle, Donald, Erwin and Max, all attending the graded schools, except the last named. Mr. Eldred on various occasions has served his community in civic capacities and at the present time is a member of the board of directors of the Evans schools. He has always been a temperance man and is a strict Prohibitionist in politics.

Peter Eyke.—A recent recruit to the farming industry of Kent county who has already demonstrated the possession of qualities which will without doubt lead him to success and standing among his fellow-citizens, is Peter Eyke, now a resident of Lowell township, where he is engaged in the cultivation of eighty acres of land in section 6. While he has been an agriculturist for only two years, Mr. Eyke is not unknown to the people of Kent county, for during a period of nearly thirty years he was engaged in various pursuits in different parts of this section and in this time established a well-earned reputation for sobriety, fidelity to engagements and industrious ap-

Hosted by Google

plication to the duties of his different employments. Mr. Eyke was born in the Netherlands, June 22, 1863, son of Hulbert and Gurty Eyke, who both passed away in their native land, where the father had been a laboring man. Mr. Eyke is the only one of his family to come to America, an elder brother, William, being deceased, while five brothers and one sister still reside in the old country, these being Fritz, Harry, Gurty, Adrian, Henry and John. Peter Eyke was given only ordinary educational advantages in the schools of his native land and when still a youth started to work there. He soon became convinced that the future promised nothing for him in the land of his birth, and when twenty-four years of age, in 1888, emigrated to the United States, arriving in Kent county, April 17 of that year. Being industrious and ambitious, he had little trouble in securing employment, and first went to work in a lumber yard, where for twenty-two years he worked on a machine. Subsequently, he accepted whatever honorable employment presented itself, and in the meantime carefully saved his earnings, it always having been his ambition to become a property owner. This ambition was realized in 1916, when he bought his present farm of eighty acres in Lowell township, on which he has since been engaged in successful farming operations. He has shown a tendency to adopt new methods in order to make the most of his labor and is engaged in installing improvements which have enhanced the value of his property, the latest of which is a new residence. Mr. Eyke is a substantial and public-spirited citizen of his community who has made his own way in the world and who has no one to thank for his success but himself. He has had no desire to mix in political affairs, although he takes an intelligent interest in the public questions of the day, and as his farm and his home form his chief interests he is not identified with fraternal or social life. Mr. Eyke was married, April 22, 1889, to Cornelia, daughter of Peter Vermeun, of Kent county, and they have a son, Harry, who resides at home and assists his father in his farming operations.

Reuben Farnam.—The famous old Empire state has been generous in its contributions to the citizenship of Michigan from the earliest date of the settlement of the latter commonwealth. Many young men there have been, particularly during the first forty years of Michigan's life, who, finding neither success nor encouragement in the East, turned their faces hopefully toward the West, journeyed to the hospitable state of Michigan and here subsequently found prosperity and contentment. Kent county had its full share of early and later settlers from New York, and among these was Reuben Farnam, who came as a young man during the '80s, and who has since remained to make a fortune and position for himself. Mr. Farnam, who is now one of the substantial agriculturists and highly respected citizens of Algoma township, was born in the city of Rochester, N. Y., April 3, 1860. He received ordinary educational advantages and was reared in the home of an honorable family, but it was his wish to accomplish something on his own account, and he accordingly, in 1880, before he had reached his majority, severed home ties and started upon a journey which brought him to Michigan. His first settlement was in the extreme north end of the state, but he found that the climatic conditions there did not agree with his health and he finally changed his place of residence to Algoma township, Kent county, just across the township

Hosted by Google

line from Solon township, a community which has remained as his home to the present time. His property is one which reflects credit upon his ability as a farmer and his good management as a business man, and upon it he carries on general operations, being equally skilled and successful in all departments of his chosen work. He has good buildings, graded livestock and equipment at once complete and modern, and his methods of operations accord with the latest accepted standard. Mr. Farnam has not married and depends upon a housekeeper to manage that end of the farmer's life. While a good citizen, interested in all that pertains to the progress of his township and county, he has preferred to remain merely as a private man and has not desired to enter the public arena as an aspirant for public honors. He is strongly Democratic in his political beliefs and has supported that ticket and its candidates since the attainment of his majority.

Alfred B. Farnsworth.—Among the men who were well known and are still well remembered by many of the older generation of citizens was the late Alfred B. Farnsworth. He had fought as a soldier of the Union, and when he returned to civic life it was as a resident of Grand Rapids, where he became the first secretary of the Board of Public Works. He also was identified with other matters here, and while much of his later life was passed in other cities, when he retired he returned to Grand Rapids, and it was here that his death occurred. The late Alfred B. Farnsworth was born in the city of Detroit, Mich., May 30, 1843, son of Dr. James H. and Catherine (Connor) Farnsworth, his father having the distinction of having been the first dental practitioner of Detroit. In that city the youth received his education, and when the Civil war came on demonstrated his patriotic spirit by joining a company of young men recruited in his neighborhood. Its close found him still a youth in years, but a man in experience, discipline and self-reliance, and when he came to Grand Rapids he opened the first city ticket office, this being located in the old Rathbun House. It was while he was thus engaged that he was made the first secretary of the Board of Public Works of Grand Rapids. Later he became traveling passenger agent for the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railway, with headquarters at Detroit, from which city he subsequently removed to New York as general Eastern passenger agent of the same road. In 1908 he retired and returned to Grand Rapids, where his death occurred, March 7, 1909. Mr. Farnsworth was widely known among railroad men and numbered among his personal friends some of the most prominent officials of his day. He was a Republican and belonged to St. Mark's Episcopal church. He was married June 3, 1869, to Mary G., daughter of Peter G. and Anna (Nevius) Hodenpyl, of Grand Rapids, and they became the parents of three children: James C., who died in 1906; Anna, whose death occurred in 1881; and Katherine, who resides with her mother at Grand Rapids. Mrs. Farnsworth still survives her husband and resides with her daughter at No. 21 Gay avenue, S. E. She was born and reared at Grand Rapids and has spent her entire life here, where she has numerous friends and a wide acquaintance, having been a member of the first class graduated from the public schools after they were graded.

Fred Farr.—The agricultural recollections of Fred Farr, of Solon township, extend back to the early days in Kent county, and his memories include the clearing of land of timber for the first steps in

Hosted by Google

the planting of a crop and the subsequent use of rude and primitive implements and methods in the cultivation of the land and the gathering of the harvest. Practically the whole development of this region and of the agricultural industry here has come under his eye, for he has never lived outside the county nor has he followed any other pursuit save farming. Today he is one of the substantial men of Solon township and a citizen who has been elected frequently by his fellows to positions of responsibility and trust. Mr. Farr was born on a farm in Cannon township, Kent county, Michigan, Aug. 22, 1861, his father being Henry F. Farr, who came from his native place of Watertown, N. Y., in search of better opportunities than he had been able to find in the East, and in the early '50s settled in Michigan. He was a young man whose chief capital was represented by ambition and a willingness to work, and for some time after his arrival he applied himself to well digging and stone-mason work. The Civil war came on to interrupt his operations and he enlisted in the Union army, in the heavy artillery, but his brave and gallant service was suddenly cut short by a fall from his horse, in which he dislocated his hip. When he recovered he again took up well digging and the stone-mason trade, but eventually turned his attention to farming in Cannon township, and during the remaining years of his life was engaged in agricultural pursuits, becoming substantial and prominent in his community. Mr. Farr married Miss Jane Clark, daughter of Stephen Clark, of Watertown, N. Y., and they became the parents of the following children: Ophelia, Lucy Ann, Charles, William, Lucetta, Frank, Herbert, Fred, Marcus and Ralph L. Fred Farr secured his education in the district schools of Kent county and began working as a farmer when still a lad not in his "teens." A goodly share of his boyhood was passed in riding the horses on the home farm, in cultivating the fields, and he watched with interest the evolution of equipment from the first crude articles to the perfected implements which came on later to lighten the labors of the husbandman. After his marriage he embarked in farming on his own account in section 14, Solon township, where he has achieved a distinct success and where he has developed a valuable and handsome property. Mr. Farr married Miss Jacoba Kass, daughter of Dr. Jacob and Gelkie (Miller) Kass, natives of the Netherlands. Dr. Kass, who was a physician, and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom Mrs. Farr is the youngest. Mr. and Mrs. Farr have no children. Mr. Farr has never sought public office, but has frequently been nominated and elected by the voice and vote of the people to offices which have come unsolicited. On three occasions he has been elected constable of his township and has filled numerous other township positions, in all of which he has rendered his community excellent service. Mr. Farr is a student of his vocation and an active member of the local Gleaners' organization. Politically he stanchly supports the candidates of the Republican party and believes in its principles.

J. D. Farr.—Like many of his fellow Kent county bankers who are leaving their impress upon the financial development of their several communities, J. D. Farr has risen to his present position through the ranks, having started to assimilate knowledge in his chosen field at the bottom of the ladder. His career has been one of constant ad-

Hosted by Google

vancement, an advancement all the more creditable in that it has been self-secured, and at the present time he is manager of the Division Street branch of the City Trust & Savings Bank. Mr. Farr was born at Grand Rapids, May 5, 1870, being a son of John S. Farr. His education was secured in the city grammar and high schools and at Alma College, and when he left that institution he found employment as a bookkeeper in the meat market of Fred Pegler. Soon thereafter, he took a like position with the old Grand Rapids National Bank, leaving that banking house to enter the executive department of the City Trust & Savings Bank, with which institution he has been connected ever since. Through fidelity and the demonstration of real ability he first won promotion to the position of assistant cashier of the main bank, and subsequently was made manager and put in charge of the Division Street branch. He has proven the wisdom of the choice which put him in this position, for during his management of the branch its deposits have increased greatly and the business which it is doing is of the most desirable character. Mr. Farr belongs to the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the O-Wash-ta-nong club. Primarily a banker, with his interests wrapped up in the institution which he represents, he has not been negligent in performing the duties of citizenship and gives his support to all measures contributing to the community welfare. Mr. Farr was married June 18, 1896, to Ida May, daughter of Winnifred Pratt, of Grand Rapids.

Ralph L. Farr.—The prosperity of any community rests largely upon its agricultural activity and enterprise and the progress which is evidenced among the agriculturists is the foundation stone upon which is frequently built the welfare of township, county and state. The farmers who evidence progressive spirit and real industry, therefore, have their important place in conditions as at present existing, and one of these in Kent county is Ralph L. Farr. Mr. Farr is the owner of a well-cultivated farm in the Cedar Springs locality and his not inconsiderable success has been gained through his own efforts. Ralph L. Farr was born on a farm in Cannon township, Kent county, Michigan, Jan. 31, 1868. His father was Henry F. Farr, who came from his native place of Watertown, N. Y., in search of better opportunities than he had been able to find in the East, and in the early '50s settled in Michigan. He was possessed of little or no capital at the time of his arrival, and for a time was engaged in well digging and stone-mason work, and when the Civil war came on enlisted in the Union army as an artilleryman. After a brave and faithful service he was thrown from his horse, and the resultant dislocation of his hip disabled him for further fighting. Returning to Cannon township, he resumed his former occupations and continued therein engaged for several years, but eventually engaged in farming. He continued as a farmer during the rest of his life and was accounted one of the progressive and industrious men of his community. Mr. Farr married Miss Jane Clark, a daughter of Stephen Clark, of Watertown, N. Y., and they became the parents of the following children: Ophelia, Charles, Lucetta, William, Lucian, Frank, Herbert, Fred, Marcus and Ralph L. Ralph L. Farr received a district school education in Steele Corner school in Cannon township and was reared in an agricultural family, where the necessity of economy had the ef-

Hosted by Google

fect of making him industrious and thrifty, he early learning the value of money and the benefits to be derived from hard and earnest work. When he reached years of maturity he assumed a man's responsibilities and secured employment as a farm hand, being thus engaged for about ten years, or until his marriage. At the time of the latter event he secured a property of his town, located in section 11, Solon township, and here he has since worked his way to a greatly deserved success. He now has a well-improved modern farm, with good buildings and up-to-date equipment, and carries on general operations along the most highly approved methods. Mr. Farr was married to Miss Alice Colvin, daughter of James and Helen Colvin, Mr. Colvin having been a farmer and blacksmith at Fallassburg, Mich. There were the following children in the Colvin family: Charlie, Ella, Ross, Alice, Carrie, Fred, Bertrand and Carl. To Mr. and Mrs. Farr there have been born four children: Lewis J. graduated in the Cedar Springs High School, in June, 1917, and was drafted in the second call for the United States National Army in the present great war; Mildred A. is a graduate of the eighth grade; and Bertha A. and Beatrice A. (twins) are attending school. Mr. Farr has not been a seeker for political honors, but in 1912 served in the office of highway commissioner. He is fraternally affiliated with Cedar Springs Lodge No. 381, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Ward S. Ferguson, M. D.—In the medical fraternity of Grand Rapids are found many practitioners who have made rapid progress in their profession, but it is doubtful if any appreciable number can be mentioned who have gone as far in the same length of time as has Dr. Ward S. Ferguson. Coming to this city early in 1911, he engaged in general practice for a brief period, or until December of that year, when he became connected with the Burleson Sanitarium, of which he is a director and member of the medical staff. In this he was enabled to carry out a cherished ambition, as it had long been his desire to specialize in the practice of his profession, and he takes a pardonable pride in contemplating the success which has attended his activities in the short space of seven years. Dr. Ferguson was born at Sparta, Mich., June 2, 1886, son of John Adelbert and Etta P. (Smith) Ferguson, natives of the Empire State. His father has been for many years one of the prominent business men of Sparta, where he is now engaged in large operations as a contractor and builder. Dr. Ferguson has one brother, Dr. Lynn Adelbert Ferguson, also a physician of Grand Rapids. After attending the public schools of Sparta, where he graduated in the high school, Ward S. Ferguson enrolled as a student at Valparaiso (Indiana) University, being graduated with the class of 1908. He then entered upon his professional studies at the Chicago College of Medicine & Surgery, and after a full course duly received his degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1910, and commenced practice at Center Point, Clay county, Indiana. After six months he came to Grand Rapids and was house physician in the Blodgett Memorial Hospital until December, 1911, when he became a member of the medical staff and a director of the Burleson Sanitarium, where he has since remained. With scientific progress shown on every side, medicine has been making wonderful strides forward, discoveries and inventions almost changing methods of practice and broadening the viewpoint of both physician and patient. The mod-

Hosted by Google

ern medical man no longer confines himself to alleviating the temporary ailment, but searches for the seat of the trouble, and to practice according to the enlightened idea of the present century requires not only more careful training, but a certain, sure aggressiveness. No physician of Grand Rapids has this and other admirable qualities more fully than has Dr. Ferguson. While he is nominally a strong Democrat, he is convinced that unswerving allegiance to party platforms and servile adulation of party leaders are not the paramount issues of existence. His religious connection is with the Fountain Street Baptist church, and, in addition to the organizations of his profession, he belongs to the Masonic order. Personally, he is popular among a wide circle of friends, and professionally his standing and reputation are high. Dr. Ferguson was united in marriage Dec. 11, 1912, with Miss Ethel Ann, daughter of John Frederick and Harriet (Dickinson) Grey, of New Lathrop, Mich., and of this union there have been born two children—Ward G. and James Adelbert.

R. J. Fisher.—Among the farmers who have passed the last quarter of a century in Kent county and have reached the middle period of ordinary life, and whose persevering and diligent labors have placed them in comfortable circumstances, is the well-known resident on section 30, Solon township, R. J. Fisher. Mr. Fisher came to Kent county at a later time than many of his fellow-citizens, and therefore has not had to pass through the many hardships and privations which the greater number faced and overcame, but he has seen enough of the work of development to realize the great strides that have been made and has accomplished his share in the development of Kent county's fertile resources. R. J. Fisher is a native son of New York and was born Feb. 2, 1865, his father having been James Fisher. The latter was a native of New York and passed his entire life there, being engaged in farming and fruit growing and was an industrious and modestly successful man. The district schools of the agricultural community of Steuben county furnished R. J. Fisher with his boyhood education and as a youth he was trained in the arts and devices that made the successful farmer. When he left school he continued under the parental roof and assisted his father for eight years, at the end of which period he was married and established a home of his own. His bride bore the name of Bertha Jones and was a daughter of Reuben and Mary Jones, and three children were born to them, all of whom passed away before reaching years of maturity. In 1890 Mr. Fisher left his native state and came to Michigan, settling in Solon township, where he has since been engaged in farming. He has developed with the community since that time and now is the owner of a valuable and well cultivated property lying on section 30, where he has erected substantial buildings and made many improvements. He is a general farmer, conducting his operations in a modern way, and has built up a deserved reputation for honesty and integrity in his business dealings with his associates. His support of public-spirited movements in his community has been noteworthy. He has not been a seeker for public preferment, but is a strong adherent of the principles of the Republican party.

Robert J. Flanagan.—During a period of more than twenty years, the late Robert J. Flanagan was prominently identified with the business interests of Lowell, Mich., and while he had retired from

Hosted by Google

active business matters and was living at Grand Rapids at the time of his death, was still president of the Lowell Cutter Company, which he had founded in 1882. Mr. Flanagan began his business life as a follower of one of the skilled trades and when he entered business life directed his affairs so ably that he attained a commanding position and was able to hold it amid the strong competition which increasing capital and trade brought. His success was due alone to his energetic character and business capacity, for he began life without pecuniary assistance or the aid of family or other favoring influences. Robert J. Flanagan was born at Wigtown, Scotland, Aug. 22, 1853, a son of James and Janet (Gordon) Flanagan. He was four years of age when brought to America by his parents, who settled in the vicinity of Galt, County Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, where both passed the remainder of their lives. It was in that locality that Robert J. Flanagan was reared and received his education in the public schools. When he was nineteen years of age, he left the parental roof and faced life on his own account, starting his career as a follower of the trade of cabinetmaker at Detroit. Subsequently, he went to Ovid, Mich., where he also worked at that vocation, but in 1882 went to Lowell, Mich., where he founded the Lowell Cutter Company, of which he became president. He remained in this capacity, directing the company's operations, establishing its policies, and developing the scope and importance of its business. In 1903 he took up his residence at Grand Rapids, although he retained the title of president of the company which he had developed, giving it his attention until his death, June 23, 1915. Mr. Flanagan was a practical business man and unpretentious, but possessed of strong character and sterling worth. His opinion upon matters connected with the business in which he was engaged was influential with the associated dealers, who regarded him as thoroughly informed and had confidence in the soundness of his judgment. They often sought his advice as a guide to their operations on occasions of doubt and uncertainty. Mr. Flanagan was a man of liberal views and public spirit, and a Republican in his political affiliation. He was devoutly attached to the Park Congregational church. Fraternally, he belonged to the Masons and De Molai Commandery, and was also a member of Saladin Temple of the Mystic Shrine, and held membership in the O-Wash-ta-nong club. Mr. Flanagan was first married in 1874 to Miss Hattie Lasby, a native of Canada, and they had two children: Charles, now deceased, and Erma, the wife of Norman H. Hazeltine, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Flanagan's second wife, with whom he was united June 17, 1902, was before her marriage Ethel Moore, daughter of John C. and Mary E. Moore, of Lowell, Mich. She survives him and resides at No. 322 Paris avenue, S. E., Grand Rapids.

Barney J. Flynn, Sr.—One of the families which have been connected with the agricultural interests of Kent county for a period of sixty years is that bearing the name of Flynn, this family having been founded here in 1857, when the place of settlement, Bowne township, was still in its wild state. The men bearing this name have been contributors to the progress and development of this part of the State of Michigan ever since, and a representative of the family who has contributed his share and at the same time has won individual success as a tiller of the soil is Barney J. Flynn, Sr., who is engaged

Hosted by Google

in general farming on a valuable tract of 150 acres of land in section 36, Caledonia township. Mr. Flynn was born at Caledonia, Livingston county, New York, Dec. 25, 1852, son of Francis and Catherine (Cavanaugh) Flynn. His parents were farming people in New York State, but in spite of their industrious labor did not seem to make much headway in the acquirement of independence, and when their son, Barney J., was five years of age they came to Michigan and located in Bowne township, Kent county, where Francis Flynn purchased 100 acres of uncleared land. His first home in this new country was a log cabin, to build which he was forced to clear a space in the wildwood, but later his industry and good management placed him in possession of a handsome and valuable country place, with good improvements and commodious buildings, where he spent his last years. For two years and four months prior to his death Mr. Flynn was an invalid, under a doctor's care. He was a Democrat and an active worker in the ranks of his party and his religious faith was that of the Roman Catholic church. Mrs. Flynn died May 13, 1918, on the old homestead at the age of eighty-seven years. They were the parents of the following children: Barney J., of this notice; Mary, who died as the wife of Daniel Murray, of Grand Rapids; Michael, who resides on the old home place; Catherine, wife of George Hatten, of Bowne township; Emma, wife of William McVane, who was conductor in the service of the Pere Marquette railroad, now residing in Grand Rapids; James, who died in June, 1915; Frank, a resident of Grand Rapids; Joseph, who owns the old place; Ellen, deceased; Peter C., who went to the West twenty-three years ago and has not been heard from since; and Jennie, wife of Patrick Grant, of Grand Rapids. After attending the district schools of Bowne township, Barney J. Flynn commenced assisting his father in the cultivation and development of the home farm and continued to be thus engaged, as were most of the youths of his neighborhood, until he was ready to embark upon his independent career. At that time, when he had just passed his majority, he began renting land from his father and remained as a renter for fourteen years, being unwilling to start as a farm proprietor until he could do so in a proper manner. In 1900 he bought his present farm, a property of 150 acres, located in section 36, Caledonia township, and here he has continued his general farming operations, his method of conducting his property having entitled him to rank among the progressive and enlightened agriculturists and stock-raisers of his township. A reasonable share of his profits have been invested in improvements, including substantial buildings and labor-saving machinery, and an understanding of scientific agriculture has secured the best results from his land, while its disposal is arranged with a view to the greatest economy of expenditure, as well as to the largest rewards from such side lines as poultry and gardening. While cherishing no political aspirations, Mr. Flynn has stanchly supported the Democratic party, and his religious connection has always been with the Roman Catholic church. He began to work at farming in this county when he was twelve years old and his sixty-fifth year finds him one of the wealthy, successful and influential agriculturists of Caledonia township. Mr. Flynn was married April 2, 1883, to Ellen, daughter of John and Mary Kelly, both of whom are deceased, early settlers of Barry coun-

Hosted by Google

ty, where Mrs. Flynn and her brothers and sisters, who are now scattered all over the United States, were born. To Mr. and Mrs. Flynn there have come seven children: Mary, wife of John Weaver, of Caledonia; John, a resident and farmer of Bowne township; Bernard J., also a farmer in that township; Thomas, a tailor in Grand Rapids; and Leo, Margaret and Ivan, living at home.

Charles P. Foote.—In order to make possible the success of such large business enterprises as rule the commercial affairs of a leading city, there must be men of great ability, keen commercial sense and unlimited industry to found, foster and bring to completed importance these same concerns. Among the men of Grand Rapids who possess these necessary characteristics is found Charles P. Foote, president of the Clipper Belt Lacer Company, an enterprise which has had a phenomenal growth during the comparatively short period of its existence. Mr. Foote was born at Hobart, Delaware county, New York, March 24, 1860, son of William S. and Mary A. (Blish) Foote. His parents passed their lives in that community, where his father was a hardware merchant until his death in 1880, the mother passing away five years later. There were four children in the family: Frederick, who died in 1867; Harriet, of Los Angeles, Cal., widow of George D. Ostrom; Charles P., and Frances M., wife of Stoddard Stephens, of Springfield, Mass. Charles P. Foote was educated in the public schools of Hobart and his earliest business experience was secured in his father's hardware store, of which he took charge at the time of the elder man's death, in 1880. He continued to conduct this business until 1889, when he disposed of his eastern interests and went to Atkinson, Kans., remaining there variously engaged until 1891, in that year locating at Grand Rapids. Here he identified himself with the firm of Foster, Stevens & Company for three years, and subsequently interested himself in other lines until January, 1908, when he acquired an interest in the Clipper Belt Lacer Company. This concern had been established by J. B. Stone, a resident of London, England, who had the patent for the ingenious device known as the Clipper belt lacer. This Mr. Stone sent to his brother, Frank A. Stone, of Grand Rapids, who, in 1907, founded the business as J. B. Stone & Company. Mr. Foote, as noted, joined the firm in January, 1908, and in 1910 the company started to build its own plant at the corner of Commerce and Louis streets. The company was incorporated for $12,000, with the following officers: Charles P. Foote, president; John E. More, vice-president, and Frank A. Stone, secretary and treasurer. The stock was increased later to $20,000, and at the start of the year 1918 the capital stock was $500,000. The new plant of this concern was built in 1912, being occupied June 20 of that year, and the new offices were occupied July 1, 1916. There are now three buildings—one 100x300 feet, another 60x80 feet, and a third, of two stories, 80x80 feet. More than 100 skilled mechanics are employed in the manufacture of this device, which is used, as its name implies, for the lacing of pulley belts; five traveling salesmen are maintained on the road, and a foreign office at London, England, cares for the European trade. A man of unusual business capacity, Mr. Foote's years of orderly and abundant work have resulted in acquired wealth and a sane enjoyment of it. He has given strict attention to his business, conducting it with a thoughtful and intelli-

Hosted by Google

gent management which could not help but bring about satisfactory results. In business circles he is widely known and among his fellow-members of the Rotary club and the Association of Commerce his reputation is an excellent one. In politics he is a Republican, and while he has not sought positions of preferment at the hands of his fellows or his party, he keeps himself thoroughly posted on public events and matters of general interest and is highly esteemed as a forceful, substantial man and an excellent citizen. Mr. Foote belongs to the First Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a member of the board of trustees. His social connections are with the Highlands Golf and O-Wash-ta-nong clubs. Mr. Foote was married June 12, 1883, to Miss Alvira Stevens, daughter of Samuel H. and Mary (Foote) Stevens, of Coppersfield, N. Y.

William Rice Foster.—Without a doubt no individual has control over all the circumstances which work for or against the favorable completion of his plans, but the man who gains the ultimate end which he seeks is he who looks back upon the past for naught but experience upon which to base his future ventures. To glimpse back at discouragement untempers courage, while a glance at past success is apt to breed a complacent laxity which allows the plodder just behind to pass. The late William Rice Foster was an earnest student of the old, time-worn doctrine which the hare and the tortoise propounded, and he used his every advance to gain footing only for a further leap. As a result he became one of the best known and most successful insurance men who have ever made Michigan their territory, and his declining years were passed in the enjoyment of well-won rewards at his home at Grand Rapids. Mr. Foster was born at Lockport, N. Y., Dec. 15, 1834, son of Theron and Mary (Pierce) Foster, natives of the Empire State. The family came West to Coldwater, Mich., in 1839, and there the father established himself in business as the proprietor of a hotel. In his later years he went to San Jose, Cal., where he was the owner of the well-known and popular Willows Hotel, and where both he and Mrs. Foster died. William Rice Foster received his education in the public schools of Coldwater, Mich., and as a youth secured his first knowledge of business customs as clerk in a general merchandise store. Later he rose to be a partner in the largest merchandise, grain and wool-buying business in Southern Michigan, and in 1860 embarked in the insurance business, opening an office at Coldwater. For sixteen years he centered his activities in that city, where he built up a good business and attracted a large following, but in 1876 transferred his headquarters to Grand Rapids, at that time a prolific field for experienced and skillful insurance men, the city having entered upon an era of business development and prosperity. In 1882 Mr. Foster was made assistant state agent for the New York Underwriters' Agency, and two years later was made state agent, which important position he held until he was retired, in 1892, with a liberal pension. From that time forward he lived quietly and died at his Grand Rapids home Dec. 22, 1904. Mr. Foster was a man of many excellencies of character. He possessed the natural requisites without which no man can hope to succeed in the insurance business, and was an industrious, persevering and persistent workman in whatever he undertook to accomplish. His associates in the business world knew him for a

Hosted by Google

man of his word; his integrity was never questioned. In politics a Democrat, he never sought the honors of the public arena, but was stanch in his support of party and friends. Fraternally he was an Elk, stood high in Masonry, being a Templar, and also belonged to the Shrine. In his vocation he belonged to the Local and Field Insurance Association of Michigan and the Northwestern Underwriters' Association. His religious connection was with All Souls' church, of which he was a consistent attendant, although not a member. Mr. Foster was married Oct. 6, 1856, to Martha A., daughter of Samuel and Mary (Bridge) Love, of Coldwater, Mich., who survives him and makes her home at No. 556 Wealthy street, S. E.

Allen M. Freeland.—The story of the struggles and triumphs of a self-made man is always an interesting one, and it is instructive as well. It has, in a broad sense, been told many times, but the circumstances of life are so various that it can never be told twice alike, and it always possesses the element of novelty in some of its details. Among the self-made men in Kent county there are few who are more highly regarded than Allen M. Freeland, county commissioner of schools; there is none whose honest and triumphant fight for success is more worthy of emulation. Mr. Freeland was born in Barry county, near Caledonia, Mich., March 18, 1872, a son of Horace and Marian (Meyers) Freeland. His father was born in County Sussex, England, and came to the United States in 1851, when seventeen years of age, settling in Barry county, Michigan, near Caledonia, where during the remainder of his life he was engaged in agricultural pursuits. When he died, in September, 1899, his community lost one of its honorable and dependable citizens and a man who had, through his own example, assisted in elevating the standards of agriculture. In politics he was a stanch Republican, although he never aspired to public office, and in religious affairs he was of the United Brethren faith. Mrs. Freeland, who survives her husband and makes her home with her son, Homer H., at Grand Rapids, was born at Berlin, Ontario, Canada, of Swiss parentage. There were six children in the family as follows: Mary J. and John, deceased; Sarah B., widow of Homer Aukney, now a teacher in the Sheldon Street school, Grand Rapids; Amos, who resides on the old home farm near Caledonia; Allen M., of this review, and Homer H., of the law firm of Maynard, Freeland & Munshaw, one of the leading concerns of Grand Rapids. In connection with Mr. Freeland's English ancestry at this time it may be noted that an uncle is captain of a British battleship doing duty off the coast of Great Britain, a cousin is in the British army in the Dardanelles region, and another cousin, who formerly held the chair of classical science at Oxford University, is at the front with the forces of the Allies. Allen M. Freeland was reared in a log cabin on the home farm and secured the rudiments of an education in a small rural school, situated two miles from his home. He was thirteen years of age when he began to be partly self-supporting, at that time securing work as "devil" in a country newspaper office, where he mastered the art of setting type while performing the various duties devolving upon the humble position which he held. He spent one and one-half years in this menial work and his persistence and industry brought their reward when he was promoted to the proud position of compositor in one of the largest and best equipped print-

Hosted by Google

ing offices in Northern Indiana, where he worked for a similar period of time. It was while thus engaged that he came to a realization that he needed a better education, and forthwith returned to his home and for five months attended a small village school. He was but seventeen years of age when he succeeded in securing his teacher's certificate, and for four years thereafter acted as teacher in one-room rural schools. He continued to teach in various communities in Kent county until able to enter the Indiana Normal School, connected with the Northern Indiana University at Valparaiso, where he took both the teachers' and scientific courses and graduated in 1900, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He spent two years in teaching at Alaska, Mich., and a like period at Cannonsburg, and was then elected superintendent of the South Grand Rapids schools and held that office until he became commissioner in 1907. He is now serving his third term in this latter capacity. During the time he was teaching, Mr. Freeland found time from the duties of the school room to attend to other matters. He completed the philosophical course at Hope College, Holland, Mich., in 1906, and received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from that institution, and Oct. 16, 1914, passed the state bar examination and was admitted to the bar by the United States Supreme Court. While at South Grand Rapids he conducted nine consecutive summer schools for teachers, which were largely attended by instructors from Kent and surrounding counties, and during that time was also a member of the state examining board for Kent county, from 1902 to 1906, while during the summers of 1909 and 1910 he was instructor in English in the Western Normal School at Kalamazoo. Politically, Mr. Freeland is a Republican, and in 1911 was elected a member of the first Grand Rapids charter commission, which framed a new charter for the city. He is fraternally a Thirty-second degree Mason, affiliated with Caledonia Lodge No. 387, A. F. & A. M., and is also a member of DeWitt Clinton Consistory and Saladin Temple of the Mystic Shrine of Grand Rapids; Kent Camp, Modern Woodmen of America; and the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. He is also identified with the Michigan State Teachers' Association and has held several offices therein. Some of Commissioner Freeland's views in regard to education are quoted from an educational publication, Moderator-Topics: "Mr. Freeland believes thoroughly in the rural schools, and thinks that the two most important factors essential to their real progress are (1) an improvement in the quality of the teaching staff, and (2) more wholesome, more sanitary and better equipped school buildings. In his work as commissioner he is assiduously emphasizing these two phases of school betterment. He does not believe in the doctrine advocated by so many that the son of a farmer should necessarily be a farmer any more than he believes the son of a blacksmith should be a blacksmith; but he believes that the rural child, as well as the city child, should have the widest and best opportunities attainable to develop himself to the fullest capacity intellectually, morally, socially and physically, to the end that he may be of the greatest possible service no matter what occupation he may pursue in later years." Mr. Freeland was married Nov. 24, 1899, to Miss Bertha L. Dean, daughter of Henry R. and Carrie (Wood) Dean, of Grand Rapids, and they have a son, Forrest Dean, a graduate of the South Grand Rapids High School, where he was captain of the football team in 1916.

Hosted by Google

Homer H. Freeland.—The qualifications and characteristics necessary to real success in the legal profession are of so peculiar and varied a nature that few men are found to possess them. Among these must be an intellect of more than ordinary activity, retentive to a high degree and with great receptive power; a will strong to assert and indomitable in resolution and persistence, and a spirit courageous and unfearing. Perhaps it is in the legal profession more than in any other that these gifts and talents have an opportunity to display themselves. At any rate, the essentials of success are labor unceasing, energy unrecognisive of unsurmountable difficulties, and perpetual perseverance. The prizes offered to the eminent are numerous and splendid, but talent alone cannot conquer; prolonged and arduous effort must ever accompany. Of Homer H. Freeland, of Grand Rapids, it may be stated that he possesses in the full the qualities mentioned above and that they have served to place him in the leading ranks among Kent county's legal practitioners. Mr. Freeland was born on a farm near Caledonia, in Barry county, Michigan, April 11, 1874, and is a son of Horace and Marian (Meyers) Freeland. His father was born in County Sussex, England, and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States, in 1851, settling on a farm in Barry county, where he passed the remainder of his life in agricultural pursuits and died in September, 1899. He was one of the industrious farmers and substantial citizens of his locality, a stanch Republican, and a faithful member of the United Brethren church. Mrs. Freeland, who lives with her son, Homer H., was born at Berlin, Ontario, Canada. There were six children in the family: Mary J. and John, who are deceased; Sarah B., widow of Homer Aukney, of Grand Rapids; Amos, who resides on a farm near Caledonia; Allen M., who is county superintendent of schools and resides at Grand Rapids; and Homer H. Homer H. Freeland secured his early education in the public school at Middleville and after his graduation began following the vocation of educator, in which he was engaged for sixteen years. During this time he decided to enter the legal profession and applied himself to the study of law, and June 15, 1895, was admitted to the bar. He did not at that time commence practice, however, for he continued to teach school until 1906 and then came to Grand Rapids and embarked actively in the vocation which he has since made his life's work, entering into partnership with Smedley & Convin, with whom he remained for two years. From 1908 until December, 1912, he practiced alone and then formed an association with Earl W. Munshaw. On Jan. 1, 1917, Fred A. Maynard became a partner, and the firm at that time took its present style of Maynard, Freeland & Munshaw. This is accounted one of the strongest legal combinations in general practice at Grand Rapids, and its members have been identified with much of the important litigation that has come before the courts of city, county and state in recent years. Mr. Freeland is well versed in the various branches of his profession and has gained an enviable standing, not alone as a skilled, thorough and learned practitioner, but as one who adheres to the best ethics of his calling. He has interested himself actively in matters that have affected the general welfare, and with other men of ability and public spirit has sought to advance movements for the civic betterment of the community. He has rendered the city faith-

Hosted by Google

ful and efficient service as a member of the Board of Education, has given his time and abilities to assisting the work of the Division Avenue Improvement Association, and takes a helpful part in the meetings and movements of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. In fraternal affairs, he is identified with the Masonic Blue Lodge No. 86; Grand Rapids Lodge No. 2, Knights of Pythias, and Kent Camp, Modern Woodmen of America. With his family, he belongs to the South Congregational church and is a teacher in the Sunday school. Mr. Freeland was married July 9, 1902, to Miss Mabel F. Berridge, daughter of John and Arvesta Berridge, of Sand Lake, Mich., and they have two children—Marion Arvesta and Russell H., who are attending the public schools.

John W. Freyemuth.—One of the prominent agricultural families of Kent county bears the name of Freyemuth, and from the time it was established here, in 1865, to the present its members have been representative of the county's best citizenship. They have been identified with the upbuilding of this section in every way, not only as industrious and successful farmers, using methods that teach others to make agriculture profitable, but they have given hearty support to public movements and to educational and religious organizations. It may well be deemed an honor to belong to such a family and one of its members may be found in John W. Freyemuth, who is a general farmer on section 30, Lowell township. Mr. Freyemuth was born Sept. 11, 1858, at Havana, Huron county, Ohio, son of John and Caroline F. (Leib) Freyemuth. His parents, natives of Baden, Germany, on first coming to this country spent one year at Boston and then moved to Huron county, Ohio, where the father followed his trade of wagon-maker for eighteen years. In 1865 he came to Kent county, Mich., and purchased eighty acres of land in Lowell township, the greater part of which was heavily timbered. This he cleared and cultivated, and through his industry and good management was able to add several tracts to his original purchase. After coming to Michigan he devoted his attention almost wholly to farming, but occasionally did work in the neighborhood in connection with his trade and was known as a skilled and finished workman. When he died, June 16, 1902, at the age of eighty years, his community lost one of its representative, respected citizens. In politics he was a Democrat, and while not a politician in the generally accepted meaning of the term, was a faithful supporter of his party, on the ticket of which he was several times elected to school offices. Both he and Mrs. Freyemuth were faithful members of the German Lutheran church. They were the parents of five children: Elizabeth, who died in 1916; Catherine, wife of Rev. J. J. Walker, a Lutheran preacher now stationed at Caledonia; Lucy, wife of George McConnell, of Carlisle, Mich.; John W., and Charles F., a resident of Lowell. John W. Freyemuth was educated in the district schools of Lowell township and the Caledonia High School, where he spent one year and was reared, as were most farmers' sons of his day, being trained in all the work that goes to make up the personal equipment of a successful agriculturist. He remained with his father and tilled the home acres, and when he was ready to engage in farming on his own account did not leave the home place, but bought his present farm of eighty acres from his father, this being located in section 30. In addition to general farming, Mr.

Hosted by Google

Freyemuth engages extensively in stock-raising and in both departments has met with the kind of success that comes only to those who are thoroughly familiar with the latest and most approved methods, and who know how to apply them and combine them with hard and persevering work. He has made numerous improvements on his property, which now bears an air of prosperity that testifies to its owner's good business qualities, while its large and well-kept buildings give it an attractive appearance. Mr. Freyemuth is a stockholder in the Alto State Bank and has other interests. He belongs to the Grange and to the Methodist Episcopal church and takes an active and prominent part in the life of his community. A Republican in politics, he has served his locality in school offices and otherwise. Mr. Freyemuth was married Nov. 6, 1888, to Inez I., daughter of Peter and Eliza Horn, of Eaton county, Michigan. Mrs. Freyemuth is one of the well-known ladies of Lowell township, especially in religious circles, and for ten years has been vice-president of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Hugo C. W. Friedrich.—One of the most reliable and progressive men connected with the musical instrument trade in Michigan, who stands high in citizenship and as a man of broad business and financial judgment, is Hugo C. W. Friedrich, of the well-known family of that name, treasurer of the Friedrich Company. His entire business career has been passed in connection with this, one of Grand Rapids' oldest-established concerns, and his success and enviable standing have been fairly won and honestly deserved. Mr. Friedrich was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., July 24, 1879, and is a son of Julius A. J. Friedrich, a sketch of whose career will be found on another page of this work. He went to the parochial schools and the Central High School, later pursued a commercial course in a business college, and with this preparation entered the Friedrich Music House, which had been established many years before. He was nineteen years of age at that time and a youth of ambition and industry, so that he quickly mastered the details of the business and through fidelity and real ability won his way to the management of the company's offices. At the time of the incorporation of the concern, April 1, 1914, he was made treasurer, and still retains this position. He has also a number of other business connections, is widely known in the music trade, and is accounted one of the substantial men connected with Grand Rapids' commercial life. He has done much to assist in the growth and development of Grand Rapids in a business way as a member of the Association of Commerce, the Greater Grand Rapids Association, and likewise belongs to the Shubert and Keewanis clubs and to Emanuel Lutheran church. His political sympathies, support and co-operation are given to the Republican party and its candidates. Mr. Friedrich was married June 11, 1912, to Irma, daughter of William A. and Emma (Bonney) Shinkman, of Grand Rapids, and of this union there have been born three children: Robert H., William J., and Mary Irma.

Julius A. J. Friedrich.—Among the long-established business houses of Grand Rapids, one which has built up a reputation for honorable dealing and substantial worth during a period of forty-four years, is the Friedrich Music House. This business was established as Friedrich Brothers in 1873, by Paul W. and Otto D. T. Friedrich,

Hosted by Google

the first location being in a small store at No. 28 Canal street (now 204 Monroe avenue), and while the personnel of the firm has changed with the passing of the years, and the business has taken new quarters, owing to the necessity for greater space, the original policy of straightforward transactions has been constantly maintained, and the house is included among the establishments which illustrate in their success the true spirit of American enterprise. In 1877 the business was moved to its present location, then 30 Canal street, now 206 Monroe avenue, one door north from the old place. In 1882 Paul W. Friedrich, the senior member, retired, and two years later the second member of the original firm, Otto D. T. Friedrich, admitted another brother, Julius A. J., into partnership, the latter having held a position as clerk in his brother's store for the previous nine years. In September of the same year the unfortunate drowning of Otto D. T. Friedrich occurred in Clam Lake, near Cadillac, Mich. At that time Julius A. J. Friedrich became sole owner of the business and continued under his own name (for a time as successor to Friedrich Brothers) until 1914, when the firm was succeeded by The Friedrich Music House, a $150,000 corporation, which continues at this writing, Julius A. J. Friedrich filling the position of president and general manager, while the other officers of the corporation are his four sons: Julius A. J., Jr., first vice-president; Otto P. T., second vice-president; Hugo C. W., treasurer, and M. Herman, secretary. Julius A. J. Friedrich, president of The Friedrich Music House, was born Nov. 3, 1850, at Rosenfelde, Pomerania, Germany, and, prior to coming to the United States, at the age of sixteen years, taught school in his native land for one year. Locating at Fairbault, Minn., and shortly thereafter enrolled as a student in Addison Seminary, at Addison, Ill., in 1875 he came to Grand Rapids, where he entered the employ of his brothers as clerk in the music establishment. His subsequent career has been already outlined. He is one of the substantial business men of the city, is one of the best-known men in the musical instrument trade in the state, and throughout a long and honorable career has maintained high standards of business ethics. He is a Republican in politics, and for ten years served as a member of the Library Commission. With his family, he belongs to Emanuel German Evangelical Lutheran church. Mr. Friedrich married Miss Elizabeth Zielsdorff, of New London, Wis., and they became the parents of five children—the four sons already mentioned, and a daughter, Cecelia, who died at the age of eighteen years. Julius A. J. Friedrich, Jr., was born Aug. 8, 1873, at Oshkosh, Wis., and received his education in the parochial and high schools and the Grand Rapids Business College. He entered the Friedrich Music House about 1893, mastered the details of the business, and at the time of the incorporation became first vice-president, which position he still retains. The firm has a large business in the handling of pianos, organs, player pianos, Victrolas and records, band and orchestra instruments, sheet music and small musical goods, and no small part of the success of the house is due to Mr. Friedrich's energetic efforts and progressive methods. He has other business interests, being a stockholder in the American Securities Company, of which his father is president, Ben Corwin is vice-president, M. Herman Friedrich is secretary, and Hugo C. W. Friedrich is treasurer, and these officers form the board

Hosted by Google

of directors, with Otto P. T. Friedrich, William Shinkman and B. A. Benecker. Mr. Friedrich is a Republican, and his religious connection is with the Lutheran church. He was married June 28, 1904, to Mathilda, daughter of William C. and Wilhelmina (Landauer) Balbach, of Grand Rapids, and they have three daughters—Selma, Irma, and Elizabeth.

M. Herman Friedrich.—The roster of successful business men of the younger generation at Grand Rapids contains, well up on the list, the name of M. Herman Friedrich, who, since his entrance into commercial affairs of the city, in 1914, has shown himself possessed in large measure of the qualities which have made the men bearing this honored name leading figures in the business world of the Furniture City. Also he is a representative of the progressive type of young Americanism upon which the business interests must depend for their future advancement and prosperity and which is doing its part in shaping civic affairs. Born at Grand Rapids, Dec. 25, 1882, Mr. Friedrich is a son of Julius A. J. Friedrich, Sr., a review of whose life will be found elsewhere in this volume. He was educated in the parochial schools, the Central Grammar and High schools, and at home, and began his career in the employ of the Berkey & Gay Company, as a designer. After seven and one-half years with this concern, Mr. Friedrich entered the manufacturing field on his own account, but after one and one-half years gave up this business to become connected with the Friedrich Music House, one of the oldest business establishments of Grand Rapids, which was founded here in 1873. He continued as clerk from June 15, 1910, until the business was incorporated, April 1, 1914, when he was elected to the position of secretary, which he still retains. His progressive spirit, ready initiative and inherent ability have combined to make his work valuable in building up the firm's business and to give him acknowledged standing in business circles. He is also secretary of the American Securities Company, holds membership in the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, and is an active worker in the movement known as the Greater Grand Rapids Association, while he also belongs to the Credit Men's Association and the T. P. A. His religious connection is with the Emanuel Lutheran church, and his political support is given to the candidates and policies of the Republican party. Mr. Friedrich was united in marriage Sept. 8, 1909, with Caroline R., daughter of George J. and Caroline (Krebs) Frey, of Lansing, Mich., and to them there have been born two children, Margaret L. and Karl H.

Otto P. T. Friedrich, second vice-president of The Friedrich Music House and an enterprising and progressive business man of Grand Rapids, connected with a number of enterprises which are well known in commercial and financial circles of the Furniture City, has been permanently located here since 1914. Since that time he has entered earnestly into the various and varied activities of the community and has become recognized as an alert man of affairs and a supporter of progressive movements. Mr. Friedrich was born at Grand Rapids, May 1, 1876, a son of Julius A. J. Friedrich, Sr., a sketch of whose career will be found on another page of this work. His education was secured in parochial schools, the Central High School of Grand Rapids, and the Teachers' College, at Addison, Wis., where he spent

Hosted by Google

one year, and his first business experience was secured in the Ludwig Piano factory, New York City, where he gained an intimate knowledge of musical instruments which has been of great value to him in his subsequent career. Returning to Grand Rapids, he entered the Friedrich Music House, as clerk, and at the time of the incorporation of this long-established business became second vice-president, to the duties of which position he has since devoted the greater part of his attention. He has other business interests and is a director of the American Securities Company. For several years he was president of the Berlin (Mich.) Fair Association. Mr. Friedrich is a Republican and a member of Emanuel Lutheran church, where he belongs to the T. P. A. and L. B. M., insurance societies connected with that religious body. He is an active member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce and has done some particularly effective work in the Greater Grand Rapids Association. Mr. Friedrich was married Nov. 23, 1899, to Jessie C. L., daughter of John and Anna (Paplow) Wunch, of Ada township, Kent county, Michigan, and they had one son, Otto, born Aug. 3, 1904, who died July 28, 1914.

John K. Frost.—The history of the Frost family in Gaines township dates back to an early period following the first white-face occupation of this locality, for the original homestead of the Frosts was a property which was purchased from the Indians in 1849. From that time to the present the members of this family have been engaged principally in agriculture here and have been men of worth and substance who, while materially advancing their own fortunes, have contributed in no less a degree to the enterprises and institutions which have combined to form an advanced stage of civilization. One of the worthy representatives of this family now carrying on operations in Gaines township is John K. Frost, who, after a period of railroading, is now engaged in the cultivation of the soil in section 4. John K. Frost was born in Gaines township, Kent county, Michigan, Oct. 30, 1868, son of William and Josephine (Williams) Frost. His father was born in England and as a lad was brought to the United States, the first settlement of the family being in Seneca county, New York. In 1849 a number of the name pushed westward to the new country of Michigan and there the grandfather of John K. Frost completed a transaction with the original Indian owners which transferred 160 acres of their property to his ownership. This land, located in Gaines township, was covered with a heavy growth of timber, and in order to erect his first home, a rude log cabin, the grandfather was compelled to clear a space between the trees. There he remained during the rest of his life, clearing his land, cultivating the soil, making a home and securing comforts for his family, and gradually becoming one of the substantial men of the community and held in high esteem. After his death his son William took up his work where the elder man had left off and also became known as a successful farmer and representative citizen. He added to the home property and in addition found time to interest himself in the advancement of his community, serving for some years as school director and in other township offices, and being active in the ranks of the Democratic party. He and his wife, who was a native of Ohio, were faithful members of the Episcopal Church of England, and she still survives him, in advanced years, and resides on the old home

Hosted by Google

place. They were the parents of five children: Fred, a resident of Gaines township; John K., Ralph, of Elkhart, Ind.; Albert, farming the Bouck farm in Gaines township, and Henry, of Gaines township, engaged in farming for his mother. John K. Frost attended the district schools of Gaines township, following which he took a course in telegraphy in Parish Business College. For two years thereafter he handled a telegraph key for the Chicago & Northwestern railroad and then entered active train service, first as a locomotive fireman, in which capacity he spent two years and eight months, and then as an engineer, driving an engine for five years and four months. In 1892 the country called him back to farming and in that year he bought forty acres of land in section 4, where he has since carried on general farming operations and has made a success of his activities. He has remodeled the house and built new barns and outbuildings and is now owner of a valuable and productive property. Mr. Frost has taken an active part in township affairs, having served efficiently as township clerk, health officer and director of the school district, and he is the incumbent of the last-named position at this time. He supports the principles of the Republican party. Fraternally, Mr. Frost is affiliated with the Masons. He was married June 24, 1903, to Daisy, daughter of the late Henry and Orphelia (Williams) Walbridge, of Gaines township, and they have two children, Josephine and May, both living with their parents.

Rodolphus W. Fuller, M. D.—It frequently happens that the men in a family will show a predilection for the same business, vocation or profession, father being succeeded by son in carrying on the work. It is not always, however, that the younger man is able to duplicate the achievements of the elder, but in the case of Rodolphus W. Fuller, M. D., it would seem that the mantle of his father, Dr. William Fuller, had descended upon his shoulders, and that this young Grand Rapids physician were due to perpetuate the family name and reputation in the medical archives of the state. A native son of Grand Rapids, his entire professional career has been passed here, and few of those of the younger generation of physicians and surgeons have equalled his success. Rodolphus W. Fuller was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 5, 1886, a son of Dr. William and Emeline (Wickham) Fuller. His great-grandfather, William Fuller, a native of England, was one of the earliest settlers of County Middlesex, Canada, from whence his grandparents, Rodolphus and Jemima (Morden) Fuller, removed to London, Ontario, in 1850. William Fuller, father of Dr. Rodolphus W., was born on a farm five miles north of London, County Middlesex, July 5, 1842, and was eight years of age when he accompanied his parents to that city, where he first attended the Union school and later Mr. Baylie's grammar school. He began the study of medicine when he was a lad of but fourteen years, in the office of Dr. John A. Nelles, one of the early practitioners of London, but, owing to a misfortune in the matter of finances which occurred in his family, was unable to complete his training at that time, bending his exertions instead toward contributing to the family income through the medium of teaching school. When the financial clouds had cleared, in 1862, he resumed the study of his chosen calling, this time under the tuition of Dr. Alexander Anderson, another of the well-known, old-time physicians of London, and after spend-

Hosted by Google

ing a short time with him matriculated in the medical department of McGill University, at Montreal. Entering that institution in 1862, he was graduated therefrom in the Spring of 1866, at which time he received the degree of M. D. C. M., and, winning the senior prize for practical anatomy, stood in the honor class of the year. In 1867 Dr. Fuller received the appointment to fill a vacancy as demonstrator of anatomy and curator of the museum of McGill University, which post he continued to occupy for a period of seven years, or until he retired to accept the chair of anatomy in Bishop's College, Montreal, a position which he retained for three years previous to his coming to Grand Rapids. During this time, also, Dr. Fuller was one of the attending physicians to the Woman's Home of Montreal. He was a licentiate and member of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Quebec, a member of the Canadian Medical Association from the time of its organization until his retirement, and a member of the Medical and Surgical Societies of Montreal and Grand Rapids and of the Michigan Medical Society. At Montreal, in 1868, Dr. Fuller was married to Miss Emeline Wickham, of Kingston, Ontario, and in 1878, with his wife and two children, came to this city, where he soon acquired a large practice and a reputation as a family and consulting physician and surgeon. After a practice which had covered more than a half a century, in July, 1916, he retired from active work, and since then has been living quietly at his comfortable home. In the profession, Dr. Fuller was honored and esteemed as a careful, skilled, conscientious practitioner and a respecter of the best ethics of the calling, and among the general public was revered and sincerely beloved for his many generous qualities. He is the author of "Architecture of the Brain," and has brought out stereoptic views of sections of the brain, and has written many papers treating on subjects of interest to the profession. Rodolphus W. Fuller received his education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, and after his graduation in the high school took up his medical studies at the Detroit College of Medicine, in which he was graduated with his degree of Doctor of Medicine, in 1909. At that time he began practice with his father, with whom he continued to be associated until the retirement of the elder man, in July, 1916, since which time he has practiced alone. In the Fall of 1917 he went to Boston and New York to take post-graduate courses in gynecology and obstetrics, remaining a year. Dr. Fuller is a valued member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and is on the staff of Blodgett Memorial Hospital. He is a York Rite Mason and Shriner, and in his political views is a Republican. Dr. Fuller was married July 3, 1913, to Miss Grace D. Godolphin, a daughter of William Godolphin, of Huntsville, Ontario, Canada, and they have a child, Grace Elizabeth. While still numbered among the younger physicians of Kent county, Dr. Fuller has already attained more than an ordinary amount of success and reputation, and if his past may be taken as a criterion, numerous accomplishments are awaiting him in the future in the way of professional achievement.

Bishop Michael J. Gallagher, who became bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids upon the death of Bishop Henry Joseph Richter, was appointed coadjutor in July, 1915, by Pope Benedict, with the

Hosted by Google

provision for his succession to the bishopric when death should make it vacant. He succeeded Bishop Joseph Schrembs, who became first bishop of the new Diocese of Toledo, Bishop Gallagher's assuming of his new office coming after he had rounded out nearly twenty years of faithful work in close connection with the administration of the affairs of the diocese. From 1896 until 1911 he was chancellor of the diocese and in the latter year became vicar-general, a position he has held up to the present time. Father Gallagher was born at Auburn, a town nine miles west of Bay City, Mich., Nov. 18, 1866. Until he was twelve years old he attended the public schools, following which he spent four years at St. James' Catholic College, Bay City. He taught during four years in a public school and then decided to study for the priesthood, his first year of study being in the seminary at Sandwich, near Windsor, Ont. Following this he went to Ireland and studied for four years at Mungret Seminary, Limerick, and this was followed by five years in Austria, where he attended the Royal Imperial University at Innsbruck. In this period he was ordained a priest, receiving holy orders, March 19, 1893, at Brizen. Father Gallagher, upon his ordination, returned to Michigan and entered upon his work as a priest of the Grand Rapids Diocese. For three months he was stationed temporarily as priest in charge of St. John's church, at Carrollton, a suburb of Saginaw. He then served for a month at Hemlock, Mich., as assistant to Rev. Robert M. Brown, now of St. James' church, Grand Rapids, and in March, 1896, was called by Bishop Richter to join the staff of priests at St. Andrew's Cathedral, at Grand Rapids, and at the same time became secretary to Bishop Richter. He served in St. Andrew's parish for fifteen years, all the time being an active helper of Bishop Richter. Bishop Gallagher, as one of the high dignitaries of the Catholic church in Michigan, wields a strong influence in the affairs of that great religious body. He is a man of profound learning and scholarship and a linguist, of great piety and zeal, and of executive capacity far beyond the ordinary. He is much beloved by the people in his diocese and has the esteem and friendship of leading men of the city, regardless of religious denomination or beliefs.

Captain Emil B. Gansser.—A family that has borne an honorable part in the development of Michigan for almost a half century is that of Gansser, a liberty-loving family that has not been afraid to declare its ideals of life and happiness and its willingness to fight to maintain them in the cause of human rights. Among them have been found soldiers, statesmen, professional men and always patriots. The present generation of the family in its attitude toward the great war tragedy now being enacted in Europe could not be more determined in its support of American ideals, and in Captain Emil Bismarck Gansser, of Grand Rapids, is found a zealous, outspoken American citizen and a courageous, willing soldier. Captain Gansser was born at Bay City, Mich., July 12, 1875. Today he is commanding Company M, Thirty-second Michigan infantry, United States army. His parents were August and Johanna (Bauer) Gansser, both born near the Rhine, in the province of Wurttemberg, Germany, and were married there, in 1868. A daughter and two sons were born to them: Emma, born in Germany, wife of Rudolph G. Boehringer, of Bay City, Mich., August H., born in Germany, in 1872, and Emil B.,

Hosted by Google

who was born in America. Students of history are now recalling the revolution in Germany of 1848, through which that country lost to America some of her most enlightened and able men. In that ill-fated revolution Grandfather Gansser was one of the leaders in the fight for democracy, and when autocracy won he was placed under bonds to keep the peace, but within the family circle the fire for more liberty continued to burn, and in 1866, when Prussia crushed Austria, August Gansser, father of Captain Gansser, just then out of college, took up arms against Prussia, with the ultimate result that he was obliged to flee into Switzerland and extended his travels to Australia and the Orient. In 1868, when Prince Bismarck declared an amnesty to political sinners he returned to Germany by way of San Francisco and New York. He could not, however, reconcile himself to the autocratic conditions he found and determined to seek a home for himself and family in an alien but free country. Leaving his son Augustus with his aged parents, he brought the rest of his family to the United States and settled at Bay City, Mich. Maj. Augustus H. Gansser, his present title as an officer in the Thirty-third Michigan infantry and assistant mustering officer for Michigan troops, remained with his grandparents until their death, in 1881, when his mother returned to Germany, closed up the family estate, which at one time had been considerable, and they returned then to Bay City. He joined the National Guard in 1891 and looks back upon twenty-seven years of continuous service, including the battle and siege of Santiago in the Spanish-American war. He served with public approbation through two sessions in the Michigan General Assembly and two sessions in the state senate from Bay and Midland counties. His three sons are also in the Federal service. Capt. Emil B. Gansser was fifteen years old when he journeyed with his mother to Germany, where he studied for a year in a preparatory school at Heilbronn. After returning to Bay City he attended the public schools and for some time was engaged in the jewelry business, but he was ambitious for a professional career. After a short period at Mason, Mich., he was tendered and accepted the position of librarian in the Supreme Court law library at Lansing, and here found an opportunity to study law and was admitted to the bar in 1905, when he resigned his position as librarian and located in Grand Rapids for the practice of his profession. He met with professional success and for several years was attorney for the village of East Grand Rapids. He first entered the State National Guard in 1901 and served three years, and in March, 1907, enlisted at Grand Rapids as a private in the company he now commands. He was commissioned second lieutenant in October, 1908, and was promoted to captain April 10, 1911. Captain and Mrs. Gansser have one son, Robert L.

Charles William Garfield.—However prodigal in the distribution of her personal gifts, nature rarely confers upon one individual superior talent in more than a single field. The qualities that go to make the successful agriculturist do not always make for success in commercial and industrial affairs; the talents which qualify an individual for high honors as a teacher of horticulture, agriculture and forestry, the more brilliant they are, tend the more to make him a specialist; the endowment which constitutes a man a successful financier seldom qualifies him for great accomplishments in public life;

Hosted by Google

the courtesy and refinement which make one a leader in social life usually unfit him for the stern conflicts which business requires of her votaries. However, in the case of Charles William Garfield, it would seem that nature had been lavish in her gifts and that his character has combined in rare proportion all the afore-mentioned elements. Mr. Garfield was born at Milwaukee, Wis., March 14, 1848, a son of Samuel Marshall and Harriet Eliza (Brown) Garfield. The greater part of his life has been passed in Michigan and here he secured much of his educational training, graduating at the Michigan Agricultural College in 1870, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. In 1873 he was granted the degree of Master of Science by the same institution, and in 1917 the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by the same institution. From 1873 until 1877 he remained as a member of the faculty of that institution, and during the forty years that have followed has been in turn and together farmer, teacher of forestry, horticulture, business man and public servant, and in each field has won remarkable success. As an agriculturist he followed in his daily work the methods which he taught to the younger generation, and out of his experience worked a notable prosperity, becoming the owner of one of the fine country estates of Kent county. For twelve years he served as a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and he is still a trustee of the Michigan Agricultural College. During nine years he was president of the Michigan Forestry Commission, and for a decade served as secretary of the Michigan Horticultural Society. He served for several years as president of the Michigan Forestry Association. As an authority upon these three subjects he has written numerous books and pamphlets which have added to the literature of the fields and woods and are interesting works, not alone because of their authenticity, but because of their graceful style and careful preparation. Mr. Garfield has won worthwhile success as a business man, and at present is chairman of the board of directors of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, president of the Grand Rapids Stationery Company, and a director of the Grand Rapids Dry Goods Company, the Worden Grocery Company and the Preferred Life Insurance Company of America. He is likewise prominent before the public as a director of the Grand Rapids Park and Boulevard Association. In 1881 and 1882 he was a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He affiliates with the Republican party in matters of public polity and is a member of the Congregational church and of the Phi Delta Theta college fraternity. A life of unwonted activity, crowned with the rewards of industry and fidelity, has earned the repose which, with still unabated mental and physical vigor, he lives to enjoy. Mr. Garfield was married at Grand Rapids, Nov. 24, 1907, to Jessie Robertson Smith, a native of Scotland.

Rev. John Adam Gervickas, pastor of SS. Peter and Paul parish at Grand Rapids, combines with deep scholarship, as demanded of the Catholic clergy, the practical qualities indispensable to a minister in a large city parish. The prosperity that attends the church of SS. Peter and Paul attests these qualities. Father Gervickas is very highly regarded and in his own congregation is looked upon as a trusted and beloved leader, and outside his own communion is respected for his manly Christian character. He was born Dec. 25,

Hosted by Google

1880, in the village of Plasapnikai, Lithuania, son of Adam and Ursula (Michaulmte) Gervickas, natives of the same place, where the youth attended the parochial schools. Later he went to Vilnius College, and in 1908 came to the United States, where he was a student at a seminary at Detroit, and was ordained as a priest of the Catholic church, June 24, 1911. In the meantime he had entered upon his duties as assistant at SS. Peter and Paul parish, and after six months was made pastor. This parish was organized about 1906 by Rev. John Ponganis, who was pastor of St. Adelbert church, but the first resident pastor was Rev. Venslaus Matutaitis, who remained from 1907 until Feb. 10, 1911, when Father Gervickas assumed the duties of pastor. This is one of the large and important parishes of the city of Grand Rapids, having 750 families, while the parish school has 318 pupils, taught by six teachers belonging to the St. Dominican Sisters. The church edifice, which was dedicated in 1906, is a handsome structure and cost in the neighborhood of $25,000. Father Gervickas has proved a great and constantly growing force in the spiritual advancement of the community in which his labors have been centered, and has also handled the business affairs of his parish in an admirable manner. Noble natured, kindly, generous and entirely unselfish in all ways, he is a true type of the Catholic priest, on all occasions a friend to those in need, but an unswerving upholder of his religion and the rights of the church.

Clark H. Gleason.—High on the roster of Grand Rapids' citizens appears the name of Clark H. Gleason, for years one of the attorneys practicing before the Kent county bar, a legist whose talents have gained him much more than local reputation, and a man universally honored and respected in and outside of his profession. He has been a resident and legal practitioner in Grand Rapids for more than forty-three years, and during all of this period has respected the highest ideals of his calling. Mr. Gleason was born in Chenango county, New York, Jan. 29, 1847, son of John R. and Susan Sophia (Hough) Gleason, farming people of New England stock who passed their entire lives in the East. The public schools of his native vicinity furnished the youth with his early education, and he was reared to agricultural pursuits, but farming did not appeal to him as a vocation, his inclinations running to the law. After a preparatory course at Oxford (N. Y.) Academy, he became a student at the University of Michigan, where he completed his literary course in 1873 and his law course in 1875, and in the latter year commenced practice at Grand Rapids, which city has since continued to be his home and the scene of his success. His first partner was Henry B. Fallass, with whom he was associated for two years, then practicing alone until 1881, when he formed a connection with McGeorge Bundy. They were together for seven years, when the association was mutually dissolved, and Mr. Gleason continued alone until 1904, when Walter C. Lee, a nephew, became his partner. The firm of Gleason & Lee maintains offices at 610 Murray building and is engaged in a general practice, the greater part of its work coming in the form of administering estates and serving as their executor. Mr. Gleason is a lawyer thoroughly informed in his profession and of excellent professional standing, being very highly regarded by his fellow-members in the Grand Rapids and Michigan State Bar Associations. He is an inde-

Hosted by Google

pendent Republican in politics and has never sought public office. For a long period a member of the Park Congregational church, he was for several years superintendent of the Sunday school thereof and also acted as a member of its business committee. Mr. Gleason was married Aug. 1, 1905, to Miss Mary Louisa Robinson, daughter of Thomas and Mary M. (Nudd) Robinson, of Washington, D. C., and of this union there has been born a son, Clark H., Jr.

W. W. Goozen.—The vast lumber interests of Kent county and particularly that part included in Solon township have a worthy and honorable representative in the person of W. W. Goozen, who resides in the Cedar Springs community. From the outset of his career he has been identified in one or another way with this industry, and his knowledge thereof makes him an authority on all matters connected with lumber, timber and their allied interests. He has also engaged in other occupations, but the lumber business has held out attractions for him chiefly and this has been his main occupation. Mr. Goozen was born on a farm in Solon township, Kent county, near the village of Solon Center, where he received a common school education. Growing up among the woodsmen, he naturally took to that line of work in his youth, and his industry, energy and faithfulness, together with an ability to govern others, soon won him the position of foreman. This office he held for many years, being connected with some of the leading and largest dealers in this line in Kent county, but his knowledge of his business gives him a reputation that is not confined to the county of Kent, but extends to many parts of Michigan. He is familiar with the machinery necessary to the handling of logs in large quantities, a knowledge that is of great practical value to one in his line of work. Mr. Goozen is a man of reliability and public spirit who connects himself with enterprises for the welfare of his community. He is a property owner in section 18, Solon township, and has his home at Cedar Springs. As a fraternalist he has passed through the chairs of Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., and belongs to Lodge No. 48, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, at Grand Rapids.

Thomas Dewitt Gordon, M. D.—Others of the learned callings contribute to the welfare and minister to the needs of the people, but none holds the position of importance occupied by that of the physician and surgeon. Man can adjust his differences with his fellowmen without the aid of the bar and bench; he can work out his own salvation; but in times of serious bodily afflictions he is absolutely dependent upon the skill of the doctor. Long before there were records made of any nation the medicine man held an honored position, and as civilization has advanced so has the dignity and prominence of the follower of the medical science, until today there are no men, taken as a body, who deserve or hold in so great a degree the respect and esteem of their fellow-citizens. Grand Rapids is the home of many men who have attained prominence in this honored calling, and among them one who, while he belongs to the more recent recruits to the ranks of medical practitioners here has already achieved no small amount of reputation, is Dr. Thomas DeWitt Gordon. Dr. Gordon was born at Maxwell, Ontario, Canada, Nov. 1, 1880, and is a son of Rev. Robert and Margaret (Davidson) Gordon, natives, respectively, of Pickering and Wareham, Ontario. His father, a min-

Hosted by Google

ister of the Congregational church, brought his family from Canada, where he had held numerous charges, to the United States, and in 1887 settled at Ransom, Mich. Later, at various times he had churches at other places, filling pulpits in Hillsdale, Allegan and other counties of Southern Michigan, and at the present time is located at Moline, in the last-named county, where he is ministering to a small flock. Thomas DeWitt Gordon had the advantage of growing up in a cultured home, where he was trained along lines that developed his mind while not neglecting his body. He was educated primarily in the public schools, and after his graduation from the Addison (Mich.) High School, he taught school for six years, and then began his medical studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where he completed a full course and was given his degree of Doctor of Medicine as a member of the class of 1909. During his college career he had become particularly interested in the matter of internal medicine, and when he secured his diploma he remained at his alma mater for another year as first assistant of internal medicine at the University of Michigan Hospital. In 1910, Dr. Gordon came to Grand Rapids and began practice, specializing in internal medicine and children's diseases, and a representative clientele was soon attracted to the young physician because of his very evident ability and broad knowledge of his subject. He was not content with his preparation, however, and when he could arrange to leave his practice, in August, 1913, he left the United States and went to Vienna, Austria, where he spent nine months in studying the special diseases which he had decided upon as the ones to which he would devote himself in their cure. He returned to this country in May, 1914, thus escaping the great war, and resumed his practice at Grand Rapids, where he has continued to meet with constantly growing success. He is a member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and belongs to the staffs of the Butterworth Hospital, the Blodgett Memorial Hospital and the D. A. Blodgett Home for Children. Fraternally, he belongs to the Masonic order, and while at college belonged to the Alpha Omega Alpha and Sigma Xi fraternities. On June 28, 1917, he was commissioned captain in the Medical Enlisted Reserve Corps. Dr. Gordon has always respected the best ethics of his calling and his standing among his professional brethren is an excellent one.

William J. Gordon.—It is a fact worthy of note that the agriculturists of any community who conduct the best and most profitable farms are those who have the best interests of their community at heart and who take the most active part in the upbuilding and development of the section in which they reside, and this is true of the farmers of Kent county. In this class of men in Nelson township is found William J. Gordon, who has always been in the leading ranks of any movement likely to prove of benefit to his locality, and who is the owner and operator of a handsome tract of land which he has made profitable by his industry and intelligent application of modern methods of agricultural work. Mr. Gordon was born in County Dundas, Ontario, Canada, May 21, 1864, son of William Gordon. As the name would suggest, the family is of Scotch origin, William Gordon having been born in Scotland, from which country

Hosted by Google

he emigrated in young manhood to Canada. Embarking in the mercantile business, he was engaged therein successfully for a period of thirty-six years, during which time he built up a reputation for fairness, integrity and honorable dealing that was on a par with his standing as a man of sound business judgment, industry and foresight. He was married in Canada to Martha Wingard, who came from an old and honored Pennsylvania family, of sturdy Pennsylvania-Dutch stock, a daughter of Peter Wingard, who was a life-long farmer. Of this union were born the following children: Isabel, Alice, Sarah, Ida, Anna, Alma, Martha and William J. The youngest child and only son of his parents, William J. Gordon received his education in the district schools of County Dundas, Canada, and was a young man when he came to Michigan, where, for a short time, he served as a clerk in the mercantile establishment of Cody & Moore, and for other concerns. He was thus engaged until the time of his marriage, when he transferred his activities to farming, and this industry has since received his attention and been the medium through which he has worked out his success. He is at this time the owner of a well-cultivated property, located in Nelson township, where he has model buildings, splendid equipment, and improvements of a modern character, all installed by himself and all illustrating the industry and energy which have combined to make his work a success. He has made a study of his vocation in all its departments and keeps fully abreast to the changes which are constantly being made in methods and procedure, and when new movements have been found practicable is one of the first to adopt them. As has been noted, he takes an active part in the movements in his community and has been a friend of the institutions of Nelson township, where he served for several years as a member of the board of school directors. Politically he is a Democrat, and is fraternally well known and popular, belonging to Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., the Knights of Pythias and the Order of the Eastern Star, to the last named of which the members of his family all belong. His eldest son also belongs to the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Gordon married Anna J., daughter of Horton Thompson, a farmer of the Solon Center community of Kent county, and of this union there have been born four children: Lillian, who is the wife of Fred Hart, a farmer of Nelson township, and has an infant child, Fay; Fay Thomas, in Company 120, Field Artillery, Battery B, Thirty-second division National Guard; Maud, a teacher in the schools of Kent county, now in charge of District No. 1, and Raymond, assisting his father on the homestead.

Fred Goul.—One of the enterprising and progressive agriculturists of the northern part of Kent county is found in the person of Fred Goul, who during a long period of years has carried on operations in Solon township. Prosperity has attended his well-directed efforts and he is today a well-to-do and substantial general farmer, owning a handsome property in section 3. Mr. Goul was born near the city of Buffalo, Erie county, New York, May 3, 1854, a son of Mathias and Mary (Dekheimer) Goul, natives of Germany. His father, who was a carpenter by trade, was a man of general worth and industry, but did not make satisfactory progress in his own country and therefore decided to try his fortune in America. Accordingly,

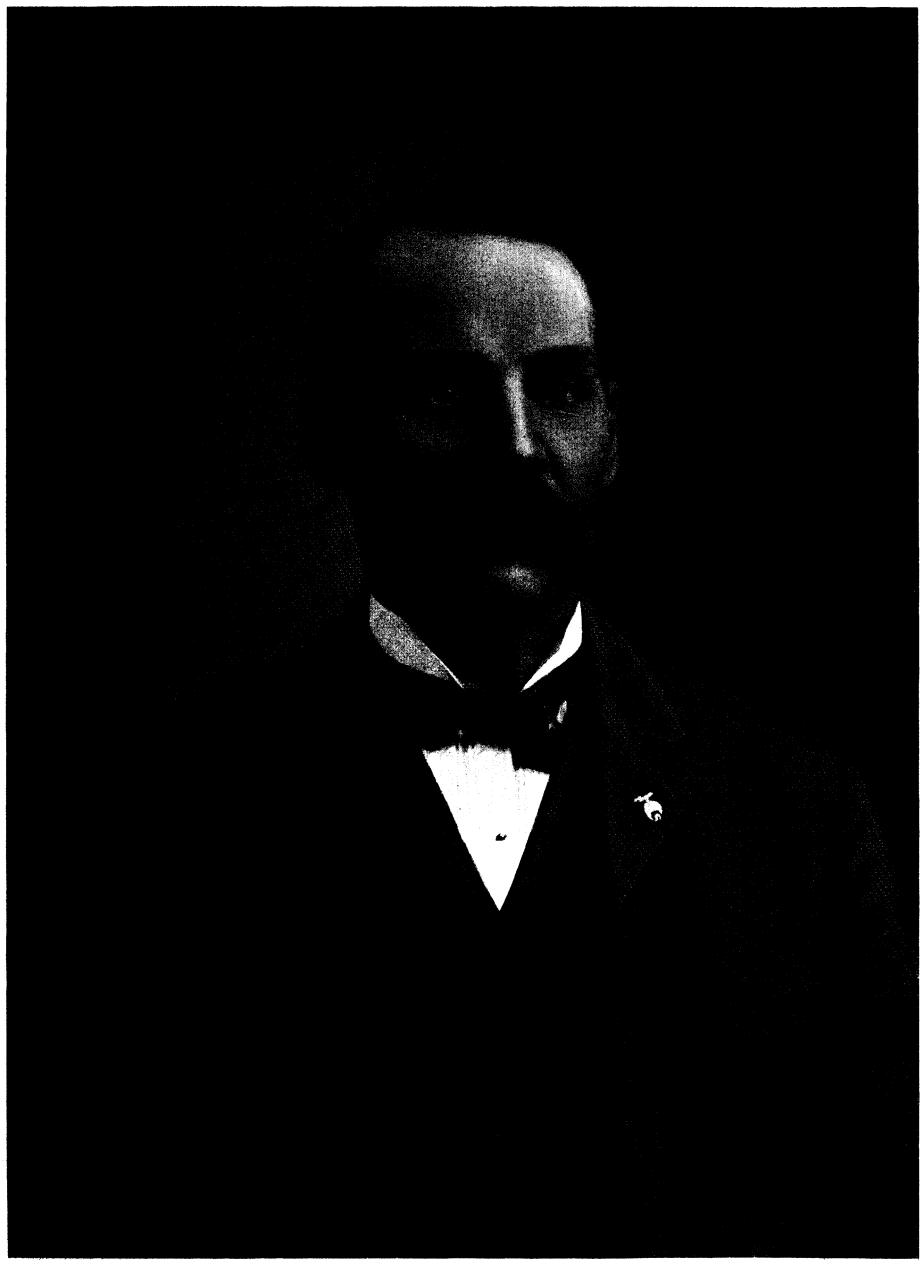
Hosted by Google

with his wife and several small children, he emigrated to this side of the Atlantic and made his first settlement in Erie county, New York, where in addition to his trade he took up farming. He continued to divide his time and attention between the two vocations during the rest of his life and died at Mill Grove, July 3, 1879. Mr. Goul married Mary Dekheimer, and of this union were born the following children: Henry, who died in Germany; Joseph F., born in Germany, a resident of Tonawanda, Niagara county, New York, engaged as a blacksmith with the New York Central railroad; John, a stationary engineer at Tonawanda, N. Y.; Libbie, wife of Jacob F. Graff, of Lockport, Niagara county, New York; Fred, of this notice; Mary, wife of Mr. Munroe, of New York state; Larrie, wife of Andrew Tenbrook, a farmer of Niagara county, New York; Sophie, wife of C. H. Compton, formerly of Cedar Springs, and now in the employ of the New York Central railroad in New York state; Carrie, wife of William Rever, now deceased; Melchoir, of Lockport, N. Y., an undertaker and proprietor of a furniture establishment; William, engaged in agricultural operations in Niagara county, New York, and Maggie, wife of Henry Pilts, proprietor of a sash and door factory at Niagara, N. Y. Fred Goul was educated in the public schools of Niagara county, New York, where he had been taken as a child and where he grew to manhood and engaged in farming for some years. About the time of his marriage, Mr. Goul decided to strike out for himself in the West, and, gathering such capital as he could put his hands on, made the journey to Michigan and settled on his farm in Solon township. Here he has been successful in the development of a valuable and attractive country estate upon which he has erected good buildings and made numerous other improvements. In the achievement of his business successes Mr. Goul has used no questionable methods. He has been fair and above-board in his dealings with his fellow-men and as a result his name has an excellent standing in business circles. He married Miss Sarah Low, daughter of Peter and Louisa (Mitchell) Low, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Canada. Mr. Low was a crock-maker and followed other lines of work in Niagara county, New York, until his death. Mr. and Mrs. Goul have had the following children: Mary L., who died May 27, 1905; Sinco J., a farmer of California, who married Gladys Hancock and has two daughters, Gertrude and Eileen; Eugene H., working as a blacksmith in the railroad car shops at Durand, and Clinton Melchoir, who was in the first draft for troops for the United States army subject to call, now at home with his parents and assisting his father in the work of the home farm, married Ethel Wainright, daughter of Warren and Nancy (Nicholson) Wainright and has three children—Eugene, Melchoir and Melford—the two elder attending school. Mr. Goul has filled the office of school director in Solon township. He is independent in politics and he and the members of his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church.

John E. Goul.—In every community of Kent county there are to be found men who have risen above their fellows, not because they have enjoyed superior advantages, but because their natural abilities have created opportunities of which they have been quick to take advantage. In a section like Kent county, where good and reliable men are easily found, he who is given preferment above his fellows

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Hosted by Google

may indeed be said to have attained distinction, for, naturally, he must have proven himself one in whom his community can place implicit confidence. John E. Goul, of Sand Lake, is one of the men who has enjoyed such eminence. A resident of this community for a period of forty-five years, he has been prominent as a business man, and during the greater part of his residence here has occupied positions of public importance within the gift of his fellow-citizens. Mr. Goul was born Jan. 23, 1857, in the State of Ohio, and was one year of age when he came to Michigan, coming to Sand Lake in 1873. He had received a public school education in his native locality, and was possessed of only ordinary advantages, but his industry and resource, determination and initiative, soon raised him above the working class and placed him in among the employers of labor. Entering the shingle and lumber business, for a quarter of a century he was one of the important factors in that industry at Sand Lake, and then turned his attention to the grain elevator business, in which he is engaged at the present time. During his long business experience here he has gained and held a reputation for honesty, integrity and capability, and these qualities have also been noted in his public service. Always interested in anything that has promised to be of benefit to his community, he has accepted public service as a responsibility of citizenship and has applied himself as assiduously to the discharge of his official duties as he has to the carrying out of the business activities which have gained him success. The cause of education has found in him a good friend, as for many years he has been a member of the school board and for thirteen years president thereof; while for twenty years he has served as a member of the board of supervisors for Nelson township. Such long and meritorious service merits recognition and appreciation and stamps Mr. Goul as one of the decidedly useful men of Sand Lake. At one time Mr. Goul was a candidate for sheriff of Kent county, but conditions that year were not favorable for his election and he met defeat at the polls, about the only time he has failed of election to an office for which he has been nominated. He is a stanch Democrat in politics and is considered one of the influential men of his party in northern Kent county. Mr. Goul belongs to several social orders and is popular among his fellow-citizens. His son, George E. Goul, one of the energetic business men of Sand Lake, is equally active in public affairs and for several years has been efficiently discharging the duties of postmaster at Sand Lake.

Hon. Robert D. Graham.—In considering the career and character of Hon. Robert D. Graham, the impartial observer will be disposed to rank him not only among the most capable business men and financiers of Grand Rapids, but among the most helpful and public-spirited men of his state. Whether one considers the patience and persistence with which he mastered a difficult profession in his youth, only to give it up in order that he might conduct the home farm; the worthy motives which have impelled him through a long and busy life; the ability which he has brought to the management and direction of great enterprises, and his untiring and persistent labors in public positions and in behalf of the public welfare, he will be impressed that all these qualities, and others less marked, rank him far above the ordinary individual and entitle him to be

Hosted by Google

classed with those to whom Grand Rapids and Kent county owe the prestige that is theirs. Mr. Graham was born in Canada, Nov. 11, 1855, and is a son of Elwood and Anna M. (Kipp) Graham. His parents, natives of Ontario, Canada, came to Michigan in 1864 and settled on a farm in Walker township, Kent county, and there rounded out their lives in agricultural pursuits, the mother dying in 1911 and the father one year later. Mr. Graham was a Prohibitionist and he and Mrs. Graham were originally members of the Society of Friends, but after coming to this country joined the Unitarian church. They were the parents of four children: Isabella, who is deceased; Robert D.; Eliza, who is the wife of Cleanthus Michaelides, of Hull, England, and Thomas E., who is still engaged in farming in Walker township. Robert D. Graham was reared on the home farm, but secured his early education in the grammar schools of Grand Rapids. He had first decided upon the law as the medium through which to work out his life's success, and with that end in view studied in the office of E. A. Maher, of Grand Rapids, to such good purpose that he was admitted to the bar in April, 1879. At that time, however, he was called home to take charge of the farm, and his law practice was therefore confined more or less to giving counsel to his neighbors in the country. As a farmer he proved very successful, his efforts being mainly in the line of fruit growing. He early interested himself in politics, and as a strong and forceful speaker soon came before the public, which found him made of good official timber and elected him a member of the board of supervisors of Walker township, in 1894. In that capacity he made a decidedly favorable impression, and in 1894 was the Republican candidate for the State Legislature, to which he was elected from his district by a handsome majority. When his two terms in the lower house was finished, his record showed that he was ready for still higher honors, and he was sent to the State Senate in 1898, and served therein with conspicuous ability. His record as legislator was one which reflected credit upon his fidelity to the best interests of his constituents, his community and his state, and he returned from the Legislature to find that he had won a firm place in the confidence of the public. In April, 1899, Mr. Graham was elected president of the old Fifth National Bank of Grand Rapids, and continued to occupy that position until its consolidation, in 1908, with the Commercial Savings Bank. He continued with the new institution until December, 1914, when he resigned to accept his present position as president of the Grand Rapids Trust Company. Mr. Graham is also a director in the Fourth National Bank and the Commercial Savings Bank and has numerous other interests, both of a business and financial character. He was first a member of the Michigan State Board of Agriculture in 1904, and was reappointed to that body by Governor Warner and is now serving as chairman. He was also formerly chairman of the Michigan State Board of Forestry, and in 1909 was a member of the Commission of Inquiry by appointment from Governor Warner. He is a deep student of horticulture, and is widely known throughout Michigan as such. In 1917 he presented to the state of Michigan fifty acres of land, situated in section 21, Walker township, Kent county, to be used as an experimental station. While Mr. Graham has many business interests, he still maintains his home on his farm. He has

Hosted by Google

always been a stalwart Republican. Mr. Graham is a member of the Association of Commerce, belongs to the various Masonic bodies and the Elks, and is a member of the Highlands Country club and the Peninsular club. He was a charter member of old Company I, Michigan National Guard. The marriage of Mr. Graham occurred Sept. 1, 1880, when he was united with Anna, daughter of Wendell and Armina (Summer) Gross, of Rockford, Mich. Their daughter, Josephine, is the wife of Ezra Hebard, a prosperous agriculturist of Walker township.

Grand Rapids Brush Company.—Founded more than forty-five years ago, during which period its business has shown a steady and consistent growth, the Grand Rapids Brush Company furnishes a good example of Middle-Western initiative and enterprise. From its inception it has had connected with it business people of recognized standing and ability, and the substantial reputation which it has earned is based upon a policy of honorable methods, making it typically representative of the manufacturing interests that have given Grand Rapids its recognized prestige among American manufacturing cities. The Grand Rapids Brush Company came into existence in 1873, when a company was formed with a capital stock of $50,000, the first list of officials being A. B. Watson, president; Julius Berkey, vice-president; W. M. Clark, secretary, and O. R. Wilmarth, treasurer. The concern started operations in the old Powers building, but by 1880 the business had increased to such an extent that it was found necessary to seek larger quarters and eventually the present building on Front street, corner of Pearl, or rather the original part of it, was erected. Since then various additions and changes have been made in the structure to modernize it and take care of increased trade. In 1884 N. L. Amy succeeded to the vice-presidency and J. A. McKee assumed the dual duties of secretary and treasurer, and subsequently the capital stock was increased to $75,000. J. D. M. Shirts became treasurer and general manager of the company in 1891 and held those positions for eighteen years, or until his death, which occurred May 10, 1909. In the same year that Mr. Shirts assumed his official duties, S. S. Gay became vice-president and held that office continuously until his death, Oct. 26, 1907. In 1909 Julius Berkey, who had succeeded to the presidency, also passed away, and a new list of officials were elected, as follows: C. C. Converse, president; J. A. Covode, vice-president; J. E. Coulter, treasurer and manager, and Mrs. Kathryn Estes Greene, secretary. These officials still remain, with the exception of the treasurer and general manager, who is H. M. Barnes. The company has always been fortunate in securing men for its employ who have been loyal to the interests of the organization and who have made its fortunes their own. An example is found in James F. Smith, an expert brush-maker, who came from the East about 1878, joined the company, became manager of the hand-drawn brush department, and remained with the concern for nearly forty years. In 1892 the company began making machine-made brushes, and its product now includes hair, bath, flesh, face, nail, clothes, shoe, hat and horse brushes, with the entire United States as its market. The capital stock of the company is now $100,000, and 150 people are employed in the plant, while four traveling salesmen represent the concern on the road. In its personnel the

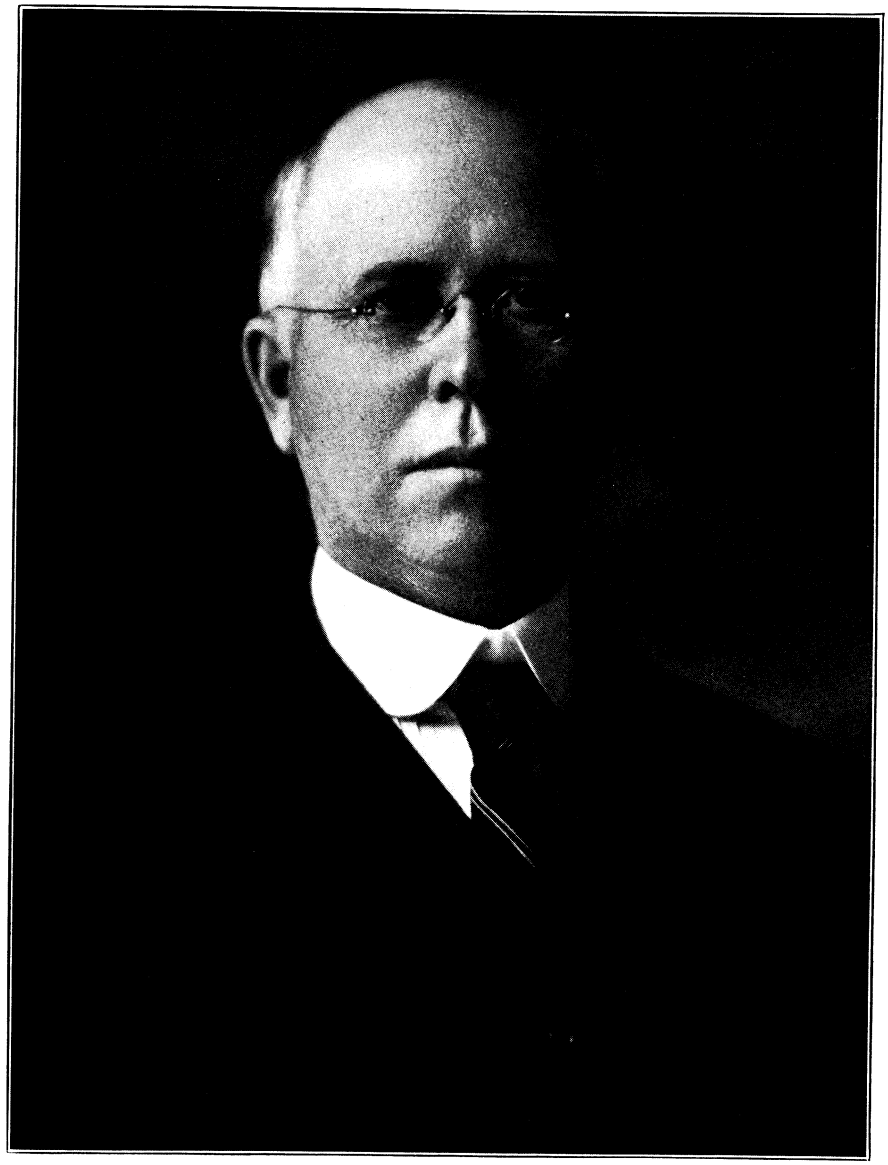
Hosted by Google

company is represented by leading business citizens of Grand Rapids; in its product it furnishes proof that the best goods obtainable can be manufactured in this city, and in its policies and manner of operation it contributes in full measure to the reputation for honorable dealing that has gained Grand Rapids firms the confidence of the trade throughout the country.

Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company.—In the field of furniture manufacturing, Grand Rapids has gained a reputation second to none in the country. So famous has it become, indeed, that its recognized nickname is the Furniture City, an appellation that it has won and deserves. In the furniture manufacturing industry here, therefore, there are found enterprises devoted to every branch of the business, for in this field of endeavor, just as in others, specializing plays a large and important part. Of the concerns which have devoted themselves in recent years to some particular branch of the business, one which is successfully following out the policy adopted at inception some twenty-five years ago, is the Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company, the name of which suggests its line. This concern was founded in 1892 by David E. Uhl, who started his first modest factory on Pearl street, but seven years later was compelled to seek larger quarters and came to his present vicinity on Hall street, S. W. The business has continued to grow and develop under the able management of Mr. Uhl, who continues as owner of the company, and the concern now has two large buildings, one 60x200 feet, three floors, and one 50x300 feet, one floor, wherein more than 100 skilled mechanics are employed. Seven traveling salesmen are maintained on the road, their territory being the entire United States. The product of the concern, which finds a ready and appreciative market throughout the country, consists of all kinds of fancy furniture, with a specialty being made of bookcases, desks and music cabinets. Mr. Uhl has developed a large and successful business from small beginnings and is considered one of the men to whom Grand Rapids owes its prestige in the furniture trade.

William A. Greeson.—It is the judgment of his co-laborers in the work of public education at Grand Rapids that William A. Greeson is entitled to be numbered among the men who have founded and fostered the best principles of the present excellent school system of the city. Originally coming to Grand Rapids in 1881, much of his earlier training was secured here, and, when he returned to the city after a protracted stay at Chicago, had attained mature manhood and ripe experience, and was admirably fitted to take a conspicuous part in fostering the common school system, and to throw himself, body and soul, into the work of establishing special institutions for the education of the wards of the city and state. It can be said of him in the retrospect of his career at Grand Rapids, that the superintendent of public schools has impressed himself upon the life and institutions of the city in a manner alike creditable to himself and productive of lasting benefit to the community. William A. Greeson was born Jan. 30, 1853, at Alto, Howard county, Indiana, a son of David and Mary (Hodges) Greeson, natives of North Carolina. His parents, who are both deceased, passed the greater part of their lives on their Indiana farm, and there their son was reared amid agricultural surroundings. He was six years old when he began to at-

Hosted by Google



W. A. Graham

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

tend the district schools of Howard county, going about three months during each winter term, and that part of his education was practically finished by the time he was fourteen years old. He next attended the public schools of Kokomo, following which he pursued a course of two years at Howard College, and after he had taught school for a time entered the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, for further preparation for his chosen vocation of educator. After a short period, however, Mr. Greeson left the Ohio institution and resumed his studies at the Indiana University, remaining one term, and then, at Ann Arbor, during one year, took special studies in high school work. Upon his graduation from the high school in June, 1875, he entered the University of Michigan, in the arts department, where he made an especially brilliant record, in three and one-half years completing the regular five-year course and being graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. After one and one-half years as principal of the Flint High School, in 1881 Mr. Greeson came to Grand Rapids and in June, 1885, became principal of the high school here. In that earlier period of the city's school system he was executive head of the high school for eleven years, but in 1896 went to Chicago to become dean of Lewis Institute and professor of mathematics. Returning to Grand Rapids in 1906, he took charge of the entire city school system, and has continued to act in that capacity to the present time. One can readily imagine the weight of responsibility and the engrossing attention to detail which the management of the public schools of a great and growing city entail upon one who has a conscientious desire to make them practically efficient for the proper training of the youth in knowledge and morality. Having early recognized the unfortunate situation of the mentally defective children in Grand Rapids, Mr. Greeson set about to remedy the conditions with the result that the city has separate schools for those pupils under specially trained teachers. And those children are not subjected to the annoyance which was their lot under the former system; and the result of this forward movement is seen in the great mental improvement of these children. And in the matter of children who have failed to advance with the years, he has developed the plan of having special teachers for them. This plan obtains in all schools where this class of pupils are found in sufficient numbers to form classes. These are two of the many really important features that Mr. Greeson has introduced into the school system of Grand Rapids and they tend to show that education for all children to the full extent of their capacity is the desideratum. Mr. Greeson is a Republican, and his religious connection is with the Congregational church. His office is situated in the City Hall. Mr. Greeson was married, Jan. 3, 1892, to Mrs. Emma Lyon Withey, widow of Edward Withey and daughter of T. Hawley Lyon, who was at one time proprietor of the leading hotel of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Greeson died, Feb. 7, 1893. By her first marriage she had two children: Marian, who is the wife of C. N. Adams, of Cleveland, Ohio, and Edward L., who is connected with the Michigan Trust Company at Grand Rapids.

Charles L. Grinnell.—While changes have taken place in the nomenclature of different important business houses of Grand Rapids, many of them are in reality the same concerns that were founded in

Hosted by Google

the early days of the city's history, and some have the advantage of being governed by members of the same family who were originally responsible for their establishment. The advantages of such conditions are easy to determine, and are generally recognized, for interest is always sustained and old standards maintained when no radical changes have been effected in the management. Among other houses of this kind in Grand Rapids is the Grinnell-Row Company, insurance dealers, which is not only a leader in its line in the state, but is the outgrowth of the insurance business established in the city in 1875 by the late Henry Grinnell. Charles L. Grinnell, member of the present firm, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 12, 1858, a son of Henry and Henrietta S. (Squier) Grinnell. His father was born at Rochester, N. Y., and his mother at Penn Yan, that state, and both died at Grand Rapids, the former in October and the latter in September, 1904. About the year 1850 Henry Grinnell came to Grand Rapids and engaged in buying wheat, but after his marriage, in 1857, turned his attention to the milling business, to which he gave his attention for some years. In the meantime he became interested in insurance, and in 1875 founded the present business, in a modest way. When his second son, Henry, Jr., reached manhood, he was admitted to partnership and the business became H. Grinnell & Son, this style being maintained until about 1887, when the younger man left the concern and was succeeded by Charles L. Grinnell. He remained with his father until the latter's death. Henry Grinnell, the elder, was a member of the Congregational church. In politics he supported the Democratic party, and took some interest in public affairs, serving for several years as a county supervisor. He and Mrs. Grinnell were the parents of three children: Charles L., Henry, Jr., who is now a resident of Washington, and John, deceased. Charles L. Grinnell attended the public schools of Grand Rapids until he was seventeen years of age, at which time he secured a position with the old First National Bank of Grand Rapids, continuing in the employ of that institution until joining his father in the insurance business. After his father's death, in 1904, he continued the enterprise alone for about two years, when Frank G. Row, formerly of Lansing, Mich., and an experienced insurance man, joined him, the business then becoming Grinnell-Row Company. Three years later W. L. P. Althouse was admitted to partnership and the firm style of Grinnell-Row-Althouse Company was adopted, but Jan. 1, 1917, the last named left the concern, which then reverted to its old style of Grinnell-Row Company, and the business was incorporated with a capital of $50,000, the following being the present officers: C. L. Grinnell, president; L. G. Withey, vice-president; F. G. Row, secretary and treasurer. This agency is now one of the largest in the state of Michigan, employing twelve office people, two salesmen on the road and two in Grand Rapids, and occupies rooms 102, 103, 104 and 105, Michigan Trust building. All kinds of insurance is written, including fire, compensation, liability, automobile, property damage, collision, burglary, boiler, use and occupancy, sprinkler leakage, water damage, surety bonds, accident, health, disability, plate glass, parcels post, registered mail, fly wheel, tourists, transit, tornado and fidelity bonds. Among the companies which it represents are Atlas of England, Caledonia of Scotland, American Eagle of New York, German Alliance of New York, Home of New

Hosted by Google

York, Liverpool, London & Globe of England, Mercantile of New York, New Hampshire of New Hampshire, Pennsylvania of Pennsylvania, National Union of Pittsburg, Phoenix of Hartford, Conn., Springfield Fire & Marine of Massachusetts, New York Underwriters' Agency of Hartford, Mechanics & Traders of New Orleans, Westchester of New York, Inter-State of Detroit, Franklin of Philadelphia, Federal of New York, Aetna Life of Hartford and Aetna Accident, Liability and Automobile Insurance Company of Hartford; also the Hartford Steam Boiler and Inspection Company of Hartford, Conn.; these concerns having combined assets of over $500,000,000. Mr. Grinnell is a Democrat, but has not sought political or public honors, preferring to give his attention to his large business interests and to show his good citizenship by supporting good men and beneficial movements. He belongs to the Owashtanong, Peninsular and Kent County clubs and to the Association of Commerce. Mr. Grinnell was married, Oct. 8, 1884, to Meena, daughter of Frank G. and Amanda Baker, of Detroit, and they have three children: Olive, who is the wife of A. H. Merrill, of Hartford, Conn.; Ruth, and Henry, who is a graduate of Princeton in the class of 1916, and now is in the United States navy.

Joseph G. Griswold.—In preparing a work in which appear the representative men in various walks of life in Kent county and Grand Rapids, it is found that the name of Joseph G. Griswold is one that impels more than passing notice. Mr. Griswold is one of the essentially active men of Grand Rapids, and the fact that he has not overlooked his opportunities is shown by his being a member of the prominent Widdicomb Furniture Company at an age when many men are just getting their start. He has spent his entire career in the furniture trade and few men have had a more thorough schooling in this field of activity. Mr. Griswold was born at Vermontville, Mich., Feb. 16, 1881, son of William M. and Rose (Loring) Griswold. He was given ordinary educational advantages in his youth, and after his graduation in the high school at Vermontville, in 1899, he came to Grand Rapids. It is a curious and interesting coincidence to note that he gained his first business experience with the firm of which he was later to become a member. At that time Mr. Griswold remained with the concern for only two years, and then went to Chicago, where he accepted a position with the Tobey Furniture Company, with which house he remained eight years. When he returned to Grand Rapids, as he did in 1909, he entered the employ of the Grand Rapids Chair Company and Imperial Furniture Company, where he still furthered his experience, and then took the opportunity presented him of being connected as a partner with the Widdicomb Furniture Company. This was in December, 1915, and since that time Mr. Griswold has been an active factor in furthering the company's prosperity. Mr. Griswold's success has been the sequence of the gradual unfolding of his native powers and their development, and close application, indefatigable energy, integrity and determination have contributed toward constituting the foundation of his achievements. He is a Republican, but his activities in political matters are mainly confined toward the exercising of his franchise as a voter and he has had no public aspirations. His social connections are with the Peninsular, Owashtanong, Kent Country, and Schubert clubs. Mr. Griswold was married, Oct.

Hosted by Google

25, 1911, in Chicago, to Miss Marguerite Hurd, of that city, and of this union have come three children, all living: Joseph G., Jr., born April 19, 1914, and William and Mary, twins, born April 13, 1917.

John G. Gronberg.—The average American home is one in which an air of material comfort is a prevailing note. According to individual choice and plethoric or meager purse, the furniture may be simple or ornate, but through the manufacturing skill of great furniture factories like those that have brought unexampled prosperity to Grand Rapids, it is almost certain to be comfortable. A representative business house of this kind is the Dean-Hicks Company, with which John G. Gronberg is identified as secretary and for several years was vice-president. He has been a resident of Grand Rapids since 1884, but his native place is Lisbon, Mich., where he was born, Feb. 25, 1869. His parents were Carl A. and Sophia (Carlson) Gronberg, both of whom are deceased. They were born, reared and married in Sweden. When they came to the United States, in 1862, they located at Lisbon, Mich., where they lived until 1905 and then moved to Conklin, Mich. Carl A. Gronberg was a wagonmaker and blacksmith, a worthy, hard-working man, who was respected by all who knew him. Both he and wife belonged to the Lutheran church. They had eight children, three of whom are living: John G., Sigrid, now Mrs. Charles L. Bean, of Conklin, Mich., and Audie, who lives at Grand Rapids. John G. Gronberg attended the public schools in his native place until fifteen years of age, when he came to Grand Rapids with the intention of learning a trade. He found employment at first with the Grand Rapids Brass Company, later was with the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company, and for fourteen years was employed in the Morton House. Mr. Gronberg then came with the Dean-Hicks Company and in 1900 founded the Furniture Record, a trade paper that met a recognized need. Mr. Gronberg became yet more closely identified with this company, accepting the vice-presidency and serving as such until 1913, when he became secretary and general manager of the company's publication department. In that year he began the issue of the magazine "Good Furniture," which is not only a good advertising medium but also in its literature assists in building up a discriminating taste in furniture that combines utility and comfort with beauty of design and finish. Mr. Gronberg was married, June 26, 1896, to Miss Olga A. Peterson, of Grand Rapids, and they have three children: Madeline E., Anson B. and John L. In his political views he is a Republican. He belongs to the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce and to the Highlands Golf club. His Masonic connections are worthy of note, these including membership in York Lodge, F. & A. M.; Columbia Chapter, DeWitt Consistory, De Molai Commandery, of which he is the present captain-general, and he is also a Shriner. He is a member of Trinity Lutheran church. The greater part of his life has been spent in a busy center where men must give and take, and he has always been able to maintain his independence, has impressed others with his sound judgment and is numbered with the able and upright business men of this city.

Major Howard A. Grube was born at Plymouth, Ind., April 18, 1869, son of Daniel S. and Hannah S. (Snively) Grube. He was educated at the Plymouth High School and in the medical department of the University of Michigan, in which he graduated in 1891. He

Hosted by Google

engaged in the practice of his profession at Coldwater, Mich., until the outbreak of the Spanish war, at which time he enlisted and rendered such efficient service that he was recommissioned in the regular army and served with the Third and Fourth United States cavalry and the Fifth, Seventh and Twentieth United States infantry as brigade surgeon on the staff of Gen. S. S. Sumner. Upon his return to the United States he was appointed chief surgeon of the Michigan Soldiers' Home. His connection with the National Guard began in 1905, at Coldwater, when he was commissioned assistant surgeon of the Thirty-second regiment, and after coming in touch with Grand Rapids, in 1908, he was placed in command as major of the reorganized field hospital. During his military service he has received four commissions signed by President McKinley, one by President Roosevelt and one by President Taft. At the time that the Guard was called for service on the Mexican border he had charge of the field hospital at Grayling, which was operated as a camp hospital and rendered excellent service in preserving the health of the Michigan soldiers at El Paso. The field hospital unit returned to Michigan, March 12, 1917, after having received valuable experience on the border, and this was followed by three months' training at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, enjoyed by Lieuts. Alexander Martin, Francis G. Fisher, four sergeants and five privates of the first class.

Maynard A. Guest.—During a period of thirty-five years Maynard A. Guest has been a resident of Grand Rapids, having come here with his parents when a lad. He is therefore, while not a native of the city, a Grand Rapids man by education, training and preference. He is an exemplification of the alert, self-reliant, progressive citizen whose record speaks for itself, and in his capacity as secretary of the Widdicomb Furniture Company he is demonstrating the possession of a high order of executive capacity. Mr. Guest was born at Cadillac, Mich., Sept. 9, 1879, son of Chauncey and Jennie (May) Guest. He was about four years old when his parents brought him to Grand Rapids, and here he grew up, his education being the ordinary one to be acquired through attendance at the graded schools. The first business experience was gained by Mr. Guest while in the employ of the G. R. & I. railroad, but after three months with that service he resigned and transferred his activities to the Michigan Chair Company, where his early information and later training came in regard to the furniture business. Mr. Guest remained with this concern for some seventeen years, becoming secretary and treasurer of the company, and leaving, in 1916, to become secretary of the Widdicomb Furniture Company, which position he has retained to the present time. In his political proclivities Mr. Guest is a Republican and has always taken an interest in the success of his party, although never having desired to be a candidate for public preferment. He is a valued member of the O-Wash-ta-nong club, the Highlands Golf club and the Furniture club, has other connections of a business and social nature, and is popular with a wide circle of friends. Mr. Guest was married Oct. 8, 1906, to Miss Rhona Schaffer, of Saline, Mich., and of this union have been born four children—Adelia Estelle, Marjorie, Donald Maynard and Jean.

Ferdinand A. Hall.—The late Ferdinand A. Hall was for more than a quarter of a century a resident of Grand Rapids, and during

Hosted by Google

this period was connected with one of the city's prominent financial institutions. In his youth it was his ambition to follow medicine as a career, but after coming to the Furniture City he was drawn from a professional life and at the time of his death was acting in the capacity of cashier of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. Mr. Hall was born near the city of Rochester, N. Y., Sept. 10, 1846, a son of Rev. Augustus F. and Dyelsie (Symson) Hall, both natives of the Empire State. As a lad he attended the public schools of his native community, but subsequently went to the oil country of Pennsylvania, and while there evidenced a desire to become a physician and surgeon. Subsequently he studied for that profession at Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1880 came to Grand Rapids and commenced practice, but not long thereafter turned his attention to financial and business matters and in time became identified with the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. In that institution he won promotion through industry, fidelity and ability, and served as cashier of the institution, being the incumbent of that position at the time of his death, July 19, 1906. Mr. Hall has one brother, Willis N. Hall, and he resides at Independence, Kan. Mr. Hall had a wide acquaintance in banking circles, and was known as a man of much ability, winning and holding the confidence of his associates and the people in general in a marked degree. He was a Democrat in politics, although he took no part in public life; was a Mason, and, with his wife, attended the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Hall was married Nov. 2, 1881, to Miss Georgianna, daughter of George M. and Lucinda (Helmka) Edison, of Grand Rapids, a sketch of whose career will be found on another page of this work.

John M. Halloran.—One of the most vitally necessary adjuncts to the government of any law-abiding community is that which is related to the prevention of crime and the apprehension of law-breakers. Naturally this comes with the powers of the city government and other authorities, but it often occurs that the regularly constituted police authorities are unable to cope with certain situations and frequently parties desiring information or protection are not desirous of attracting the publicity that invariably follows the placing of matter in the hands of the police department. In these cases is found the matter that constitutes in large degree the work of the private detective agencies, the regular operations of which have been brought down to a practical point of accuracy and scientific accomplishment that is constantly a marvel to the layman. Of the concerns of this nature which have been established during recent years, one which has advanced phenomenally during the three years of its existence is Halloran's National Detective Agency, the general office of which is located at Grand Rapids, and the president of which is John M. Halloran, one of the best and most skilled men in the tracking down of criminals in the Central West today. Mr. Halloran was born in Leighton township, Allegan county, Michigan, May 18, 1875, son of Cornelius and Katherine (MacGrevey) Halloran, the former a native of County Clare and the mother of County Roscommon, Ireland. Cornelius Halloran immigrated to America about 1860 and located first in Montreal, Canada, for a time, but subsequently came to this country and settled at Detroit, from which city he went to Kalamazoo. Eventually he came to Grand Rapids, where he secured

Hosted by Google

work on the G. R. & I. railway, but after several years turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, securing a farm in Leighton township, Allegan county, on which he continued operations during the remainder of his life. He was a good citizen and a faithful member of the Catholic church, to which Mrs. Halloran, who survives him and lives on the farm, also belongs. Mr. Halloran was a Republican in his political views. There were the following children in the family: Anna, wife of Harry Dillon, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Margaret, wife of Leat Pullen, of Colona, Mich.; John M., of this notice; Mary, deceased, who was the wife of Clarence Gannon, of Gaines township, Kent county; James, who resides on the farm with his mother; Daniel, of Detroit, Mich., and Ella, wife of Frank McLaughlin, of Chicago. John M. Halloran received a district school education in Leighton township and was reared as a farmer boy, but the quiet existence of the agricultural life held out no attractions for him, and like many other youths from the rural communities he left home at the earliest opportunity and came to Grand Rapids, where his first employment was that of motorman on the street cars. He also served as a conductor, but soon changed the uniform of the transportation company for that of the police department, becoming a city patrolman Oct. 25, 1895. He did not travel a beat for any extensive length of time, for he soon displayed abilities that warranted his superior officers detailing him on special work, and he was then placed in the regular detective department of the city of Grand Rapids, and during his connection therewith established one of the most wonderful records ever made by a detective in the State of Michigan. In the meantime, the business men of Grand Rapids, who had been suffering continual losses in a hundred different ways, were becoming more and more impressed with the need of a private detective agency for services in Western Michigan, and finally came to the conclusion that Mr. Halloran was the logical man to head such an institution. It took some pressure to make Mr. Halloran leave the city detective department, but he was finally prevailed upon, and in 1915 the Halloran National Detective Agency came into being. As before noted, Mr. Halloran established a wonderful record in the detective department, and in this connection it may not be out of place to quote the following "Resolutions to John Halloran: Whereas, John Halloran, detective, who is in the employ of the City of Grand Rapids and has been for several years, at the risk of his life, not only once but on many occasions, finally brought about the capture of the murderers of three citizens and business men of the city of Grand Rapids; and Whereas, Said detective devoted his energy and time and risked his life without additional compensation or hope of further reward than a duty to be performed; and Whereas, The final step has been taken by the courts in the disposition of said matter, now therefore, Resolved, That the citizens of the City of Grand Rapids through its Common Council do hereby extend to John Halloran their deepest appreciation and many thanks for the splendid and courageous work which he has so nobly performed; and further, Resolved, That an engrossed copy of this resolution be made and presented to said officer. Adopted by a rising vote. Signed, George E. Ellis, Mayor. James Schriver, Clerk." In the formation and detailed completion of an organization that necessarily had to be much more than local in its nature, Mr. Halloran

Hosted by Google

faced a number of difficult problems. One of the first tasks he had before him was to secure the services of the right associates in order to make this agency one of the best in the country. After inquiring through different sources, he found that Carl E. Stone, of Chicago, was one of the most successful operatives in the private detective business in the country, and who, for the past ten years, had been superintendent of one of the largest secret service companies in the world. Mr. Stone was eventually secured as manager of the Halloran Detective Agency, and took up his duties. The phenomenal growth of the agency soon made it necessary to employ a trained operative for the keeping of the police records. One of the best men available was V. J. Twining, who, for ten years, had been doing this work for the police department of the city of Grand Rapids. Mr. Twining is now superintendent of the Halloran agency. Another department that has been added to this agency and which has had splendid success is the credit department. Lou Dolan, formerly clerk of the Superior Court and later credit manager for a large wholesale house of Grand Rapids, occupies this position, and the splendid success of the department is largely attributable to his capacity. It is a rule of the company to employ only those operatives whose records will bear the strictest scrutiny and investigation as to integrity and ability. Altogether the agency prides itself upon being one of the best equipped and most completely organized in the country, and stands upon its record of having become the largest and most successful of any agency in Michigan, although in business only a comparatively short time. While the general offices are situated at Grand Rapids, 506-7 Grand Rapids Savings Bank Building, branches are maintained in numerous other cities in this country, and in Canada, England, Cuba and France. The scope of its business is extensive. Thefts, forgeries, anonymous, threatening or slanderous communications are thoroughly investigated and located, and a policy of absolute secrecy and an avoidance of newspaper publication is a feature of the work done. Managers of corporations are kept posted as to inside existing conditions, both as to labor troubles, contemplated strikes and other irregularities, such as loss of property and waste of material. A special police patrol is furnished to protect property in time of strike, and in factory inspections recommendations are made in the way of improving systems and eliminating unnecessary waste, expense, etc. The department store service is another feature, and this is profitable, not alone because of the restoration of goods stolen by shoplifters and others, but because of the prevention of thefts; and extra operatives are furnished for the holiday seasons and for special sale occasions. The large furniture houses have found the services of this agency to be an invaluable aid, and the service for railroads is that of electric car and steam train testing and general detective work to assist the management in maintaining adequate service; also in the investigation of accident cases or any irregularities in the conduct of a railroad. The agency also has a large insurance clientage and renders valuable service in connection with the investigation of all forms of claims, as well as in the adjustment of losses. Various other branches, too numerous to mention, cover in a comprehensive manner every phase of the business of detecting and preventing crime, and all this has been worked up under the per-

Hosted by Google

sonal supervision of Mr. Halloran. Personally, and through his operatives, Mr. Halloran has cleared up a number of cases that have mystified city and county officials. He has means at hand for the ferreting out of secrets and the untangling of complexities and possesses himself the true detective sense. Mr. Halloran is a member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce and of the Greater Grand Rapids Association. He holds membership also in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Grand River Driving club, and in his political views is a Republican. He was first married Jan. 12, 1906, to Miss Grace O'Hara, daughter of James and Mary O'Hara, of Grand Rapids, and of this union were born two children, Lionel and Grace, both residing at home. Mrs. Halloran died July 1, 1908, and Mr. Halloran was married Nov. 28, 1910, to Miss Josephine Miller, daughter of Alexander and Mary Miller, of Grand Rapids, and two children have been born to them—Kenneth, at home, and an infant son who died at the age of four and one-half months.

Harvey C. Hamilton.—One of the principal reasons for Grand Rapids' prestige as a manufacturing, commercial and industrial city is found in the fact that it has men who have won their own way without outside help, who have taken things into their own hands and who have made opportunities instead of looking for them or waiting for them to appear. This kind of initiative is something that adds to the business prowess of any community, and the Furniture City has been singularly fortunate in having men of this kind contributing to its welfare. Included in the list of this nature should be mentioned Harvey C. Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton was reared as a farm boy and was given but a public school education. He entered commercial life in a clerical capacity and has worked his way to the front by his own efforts, now being treasurer of the Alabastine Company. Harvey C. Hamilton is a Kent county man all the way through. He was born at Grandville, April 4, 1866, son of Isaiah and Mary E. (Grey) Hamilton. Reared in a family which felt that sturdy righteousness and honor were more to be desired than anything else procurable, and brought up in the healthy agricultural atmosphere of his father's farm, he came to his manhood with brain and body fully developed. The farm held Mr. Hamilton until 1894, in which year he made his first venture into the commercial field. That year saw him make his first business connection. He was given a position by the Diamond Wall Finish Company as bookkeeper; when this company was taken over by the Alabastine Company, in 1898, his fidelity and ability were appreciated and he was retained. But not for long. The company needed men who were capable, willing and earnest, and Mr. Hamilton found ready and deserved promotion. In 1914, the man who had started as bookkeeper was put into the office of treasurer. Among his business associates he is known as a man who is thoroughly alive to everything that is happening. It is his policy to keep himself fully informed in regard to current affairs and to have an intelligent knowledge thereof. Like other well-informed men, he knows that Grand Rapids' interests are his interests, and the movements which are started to help the city civically, educationally or socially, find in him a hearty supporter. In politics Mr. Hamilton is a Republican. Fraternally he is identified with the Masons and the Odd Fellows. He was married Feb. 12, 1888, to Miss Myrtie A. Coates,

Hosted by Google

daughter of Leaman and Eliza (Salman) Coates, of Grandville, Mich., and they have two sons, Carl and LaVerne, the latter a resident of Chicago.

R. T. Hamilton.—The prosperous capitalist illustrates by his experiences and successes the ups and downs of life, its fascinating promises of reward, as well as its equally abundant opportunities for failure. His extended relations with outside concerns bring new capital to his community, and if he has sound judgment and is sufficiently conservative to limit his investments to enterprises he feels sure will succeed, he is reasonably sure of the attainment of success. Such, at least, has been the experience of R. T. Hamilton, banker of Sand Lake and one of the leading and substantial citizens of that thriving village of Kent county. His prosperity, however, has not come without a large amount of hard work; industry, in fact, has been one of the ruling characteristics of his career, and perhaps that is why that he, at an age when many men are merely getting under way upon their life work, finds himself the possessor of a good business, the repository for large interests, and the holder of a place in his community where his fellow-citizens retain him in their closest confidence. Mr. Hamilton was born at Sparta, Kent county, Michigan, July 1, 1874, son of Henry F. Hamilton. His father, in the pursuit of business, moved his family several times during the boyhood of R. T. Hamilton, and as a result the lad attended the public schools at Cedar Springs and Sand Lake, at which place his father eventually settled as the proprietor of a mercantile establishment. It was in this place of business that R. T. Hamilton received his introduction to commercial methods and received his first training along business lines under his father's preceptorship. Later, when he had attained his majority, he secured a position with the G. R. & I. railroad, a position which he held for three years. He also worked in various other business establishments and for a time conducted his father's business for the elder man, but in 1905 he entered the Bank of Sand Lake, a private institution which was conducted by a Mr. Phelps. Here he held clerical positions for three years, at the end of which time, in partnership with Frank E. Shattuck, he bought out Mr. Phelps' interests, and the firm of Shattuck, Hamilton & Company has since conducted this institution. Conservatism and absolute safeguarding of the interests of its depositors has brought the bank a good patronage, and it is today accounted a sound and stable house, which, under its present good management, should be able to weather the storms of financial distress and come through with colors flying. Mr. Hamilton is a keen student of banking conditions and is looked to for advice and leadership in matters of financial importance. He has won the confidence of the agricultural element of this part of the county, as well as that of the larger centers, through a display of natural ability and aptitude for his chosen line of work. This confidence was evidenced at the last election when a count of the votes cast showed that he had been elected by a handsome majority to the office of village treasurer, a position which he holds at this time. Politically, he is a Republican, and his fraternal affiliation is with the Knights of the Maccabees. Mr. Hamilton married Eva M., daughter of Fred W. Hicks, of Kent county.

Hosted by Google

George Hanna.—To be able to look back over more than a half a century of compensating effort in any vocation is something of a privilege. When this retrospect covers a period of constant activity in the agricultural field, it would seem as if a particular sense of accomplishment must be felt, for heart and spirit must have been engaged as well as brain in order to persevere so long on a path that needs unfailing industry in order for its followers to reap a commensurate reward. Attention may thus be called to the career of George Hanna, who is now living retired at Center Springs, but who for many years was one of the leading agriculturists of Solon township. He has been a resident of Kent county for sixty-nine years and during his residence here has not only been prominently identified with farming interests, but with public affairs as well. Mr. Hanna was born Jan. 10, 1848, in Cortland county, New York, son of James Hanna, also a native of that county, who brought his family to Michigan in 1849. From that day to the present the family has been connected with the development, progress and welfare of the county, and particularly of Solon township, and its members have on numerous occasions filled important positions of trust and responsibility in public life. George Hanna was but one year old when his parents brought him to Michigan, and he grew up amid pioneer surroundings and primitive conditions. His education was limited to the instruction that could be gained in the local district school, the term of which extended over only a few months each winter, and as a youth he early learned to do his share in the hard work incidental to preparing the home land for cultivation. He still has a remembrance of the time when it was necessary to cut trails through the forest to reach Solon township from Rockford, and during the early and later days did his part in developing this region into a rich agricultural country with numerous fine and productive farms. Mr. Hanna married Miss Amanda Robb, of Solon township, daughter of Jacob and Mary Jane Robb, an old and respected family of Kent county and among the early settlers here. During their early married life Mr. and Mrs. Hanna saw much hard work, but they were industrious, thrifty and both good managers and in time settled themselves in an independent position, not being dependent on any one. They own two splendid farms in Solon township, as well as their comfortable modern home at Cedar Springs in that part of the village that lies in the township named, and are accounted among the well-to-do people of their locality. Those bearing the family name have always shown themselves progressive in the affairs of their community, and Mr. Hanna's son is now treasurer of Solon township. Mr. Hanna, himself, has filled most of the township offices of any importance, and his public record, like his private life, is open to inspection and will stand the closest scrutiny. In the evening of life, surrounded by the comforts of life, he can look back over the years that have passed with a sense of satisfaction, content in the knowledge that his career has been a useful and worthy one.

Samuel J. Hanna.—Among the prosperous, progressive and energetic agriculturists of the younger generation whose operations are being carried on in the southern part of Kent county, one of the best known is Samuel J. Hanna, of Gaines township. Not only has he achieved prosperity in agricultural pursuits, but also in business cir-

Hosted by Google

cles, while his services to his community in public positions have gained him public confidence and esteem. Mr. Hanna was born in Gaines township, Kent county, Michigan, July 22, 1884, son of John and Jane (Stuart) Hanna, natives of Ireland. In the country of his birth John Hanna was an iron-worker, and at Belfast met and married Jane Stuart, who had worked in the linen mills of that city from the time she was seven years of age. Hoping to better their condition, in 1872 they came to the United States, where for many years Mr. Hanna was compelled to continue daily labor, as when he arrived he had no capital with which to establish himself as a proprietor of a business or as owner of property. His splendid and persevering efforts were finally rewarded, however, and in 1901 he purchased forty acres of land in Allegan county, which formed the nucleus for his present fine farm, on which he and Mrs. Hanna are now living in quiet retirement, enjoying the comforts which they so well deserve and for which they labored so cheerfully, unceasingly and perseveringly. They are devout members of the United Brethren church and have the esteem and respect of their neighbors and the genuine affection of a large circle of friends. Mr. Hanna is a Democrat, but in his busy life has found little time for politics. There were ten children in the family: Lizzie, deceased; James, a resident of Gaines township; two children who died as infants; John, an attorney in Washington, Douglass county; Margaret, deceased; William; Mary, deceased; Samuel J., and Max, secretary of the Grand Rapids Street Car Insurance company. Samuel J. Hanna was educated in the district schools of Gaines township and at Ferris Institute, and when his studies were completed engaged in teaching school, a vocation which he followed with success for nine years. He then turned his attention to farming and at this time is the owner of 160 acres of improved land in Allegan county and his fine farm of eighty acres in Gaines township, Kent county, properties which he is developing according to the latest accepted methods of scientific agriculture. In addition to his farming activities, he is also acting in the capacity of vice-president of the Farmers' Mutual Telephone Company, and among his associates is known as a dependable young man of much energy and good judgment, whose progressive ideas have done much to foster the growth and assure the success of the enterprise. Mr. Hanna is a Republican and in 1915 was elected township clerk, this being followed, in 1916, by his election as a member of the board of supervisors. He was married June 1, 1911, to Arletta, daughter of Valentine Geib, of Gaines township, and they have three children—Donald, Marion and Ellen.

Frederick Hart.—The call of the soil appeals strongly to some men, particularly if their earliest endeavors have been enlisted in agricultural work, and it is not infrequently found that after having experienced labors in other fields, individuals will return to the farm and find their greatest prosperity there. This statement applies to the career of Frederick Hart, one of the representatives of the younger agricultural generation in Kent County. He was reared as a child of the soil, but in his early youth desired to try himself out in the field of commercial endeavor. His experience in that direction, however, served to convince him that farming was his forte, and he now finds congenial and profitable employment on his well-cultivated tract

Hosted by Google

in Nelson township. Mr. Hart was born in Newaygo county, Michigan, April 6, 1887, son of William Hart. The family were early residents of Kent county and William Hart was born near Rockford, where he passed the greater part of his life, being engaged in well-digging and farming. He married Mary Gilbert, daughter of Lafayette Gilbert, also of this county, and seven children were born of their union: Nora, wife of Gus Thorp, a carpenter of this community; Mabel, who married Fred Fairbrothers, a farmer in Kent county; Frank, deceased; Leona, wife of Eli Egoff, a machinist by trade who is now employed in aeroplane work for the United States government; Frederick; Otto, who married Anna Abings, and one who died in infancy. Frederick Hart received his educational training in the district schools. He was given his initial experience as a worker upon his father's farm, but upon reaching his majority entered mercantile lines as a clerk in the general store of J. Herring, at Sand Lake, where he remained two or three years. When he left Mr. Herring's employ he did so to engage again in farming and his subsequent success has evidenced the fact that his move was a wise one. He is now owner of a handsomely cultivated property, and while his career is still in the early stages of its development, what he has done thus far may be taken as a criterion upon which to base a prediction of a worth-while success in the future. He has made a study of his vocation and has not been afraid to adopt new methods where he has found them practicable. Mr. Hart married Lillian Gordon, daughter of William J. and Belle Gordon, of Nelson township, and one son, Fay, has come to bless this union. Mr. Hart is a member of Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., and he and Mrs. Hart are members of the Eastern Star. Politically he supports the Republican ticket.

John M. Hart.—In the life of any enterprising community the hotel plays a most important and conspicuously contributing part. It is desirable for each village, town and city to create a favorable impression upon those who come from other centers of population, in order that its reputation may not suffer, and it is in large degree that the hotel is called upon to furnish such an impression, as it is invariably the home and stopping-place of the traveling public. Kent county should consider itself fortunate in the possession of many hotels of modern character, furnishing excellent accommodations for visitors; but all are not well or ably conducted as is the Central Hotel, at Cedar Springs, which for the last thirteen years has been under the proprietorship of John M. Hart. Mr. Hart has had an extensive experience as a hotel-keeper and is also accounted one of the good and dependable citizens of Cedar Springs and a man whose public spirit leads him to be careful of his community's reputation. He was born at Shannonville, Ontario, Canada, Dec. 21, 1867, son of Wayman and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Hart, natives of the same county, the former born April 19, 1827, and the latter Dec. 10, 1826. Wayman Hart was a millwright by vocation and followed that trade throughout the greater part of his life in Canada, where his death occurred, as did also that of his wife. She was possessed of much literary ability and was well known as a poetess in the county in which she spent all her life. Numerous poems composed by her are still kept by her son. She and her husband were the parents of the following children: Harvey Montrose, born Dec. 28, 1851; William Edwin, Jan. 3, 1854;

Hosted by Google

Martha Agnes, Aug. 12, 1855; Martha Ann, Jan. 13, 1857; Walter Wayman, Jan. 19, 1863; Samuel Robert, April 22, 1865; John Milton, Dec. 21, 1867, and Abraham Hamilton, Nov. 14, 1870. John M. Hart was educated in the public schools of Prince Edward county and when his schooling was completed started life in the lumber mills of Canada. Subsequently he engaged in farming, but only for a comparatively short time, for, feeling that his forte did not lie in agricultural activities, and being possessed of ambition and determination to make a success of his life, he removed to Oswego, N. Y., where he secured employment in a sash and door factory. After two years he left the East and came to Grand Rapids, Mich., where for one year he worked in a furniture factory and then accepted a position as clerk in the Michigan House, remaining three years. He then spent a like period as proprietor of a restaurant at Grand Rapids, and about this time, Nov. 7, 1897, was united in marriage with Miss Jennie Tronson, a native of Norway, and eldest of the nine children of Ole and Regina (Olsen) Tronson, also of that country. Mr. Tronson had been a farmer in his native land, and on coming to this country in 1890 continued his agricultural operations and died on his farm in Montcalm county, in 1910. He and his wife became the parents of these children: Jennie, who is now Mrs. Hart; Anna married Leon Beckwith; Osburg, wholesale dealer in barber supplies at Syracuse, N. Y.; Rena Olga married Frank Whitmore, of Ambol, Mich.; Sena, deceased; John Harold and Albert B., of Howard City, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Hart are the parents of four children: Ruth E., graduate in the class of 1918 in the Cedar Springs High School, born at Grand Rapids, Feb. 21, 1900; Park, born May 12, 1904, at North Park, Mich.; Walter Wayman, born Feb. 28, 1906, at Cedar Springs, and Thelma Lemoin, born April 20, 1908, all at school at Cedar Springs. After his marriage, Mr. Hart removed to North Park, Kent county, Michigan, where for five years he was proprietor of a summer resort, but in 1904 disposed of his holdings there and came to Cedar Springs, where he purchased the Central Hotel, of which he has since been the proprietor. During this period he has built up an excellent business, his house being a popular stopping place for the traveling public which appreciates excellence of cuisine, comfort and the latest accommodations. Mr. Hart is a genial host, who continually looks after the welfare of his guests, and by reason of his affable manner, unfailing courtesy and obliging nature has won many friends. He is a member of Elks Lodge No. 48 and is a Democrat in politics, but has never aspired to office either as a fraternalist or politician. He and his wife are members of the M. E. church and Mrs. Hart is a member of the Ladies' Aid Society and also of Daisy Chain No. 48. She is a charter member of this order and a member of the Red Cross.

Hon. Reuben Hatch.—Very few of the lawyers who began practice in Michigan nearly a half a century ago are still following their calling actively. Of those who came to the bar in the early years of the '70s, most have long since laid down their briefs. Some survive in retirement, enjoying the ease and dignity which lives of intellectual activity have earned, while fewer still continue to participate in the struggles which the competition of younger and more vigorous men makes more severe and exacting. Among those who are still

Hosted by Google

actively engaged in practice with unabated vigor of mind is Judge Reuben Hatch, who, although forty-eight years have passed since his admission to the Michigan bar, is justly accounted one of the most alert, capable and prominent of the Grand Rapids fraternity, and as senior member of the firm of Hatch, McAllister & Raymond, the head of a combination which for strength, learning and experience is one of the most formidable now in practice. Judge Hatch was born at Alstead, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, Oct. 11, 1847, a son of Rev. Reuben and Almira (Kilbourn) Hatch. His father, a minister of the Congregational church, came to Michigan from Ohio at an early day and during his ministerial labors held charges at Union City, Traverse City and other points. He was also widely known in the educational field, and was one of the founders of Olivet College, Michigan, as well as one of the founders of Benzonia (Mich.) College, where for three years he was professor of languages. After a long, useful and remarkably active career, distinguished alike for the positions which he had held and the great and good work he had accomplished, he died at the advanced age of ninety-four years. Reuben Hatch of this review was a small child when taken by his parents from his birthplace in New England to Ohio, in which state his early education was secured in the public schools. Having decided upon a career in the law, he entered at Traverse City, Mich., to which city the family had removed several years previously, the office of Edwin S. Pratt, under whose preceptorship he remained until admitted to the bar, May 12, 1870. At that time he formed a partnership and began practice with Mr. Pratt, this association continuing with mutual satisfaction and much success until Judge Hatch was elected to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial District of Michigan, in April, 1875. He continued in the judicial capacity, establishing a splendid record, until 1882, and then resumed practice with Mr. Pratt, whose partner he was until 1888, that year marking his advent at Grand Rapids. Here he combined his legal abilities with those of Harry D. Jewell, in the forming of a law firm that continued in existence for four years, following which he was a partner with Hugh E. Wilson, this concern continuing to practice until 1906. At that time Judge Hatch and Fred M. Raymond formed a combination, and in October, 1910, the firm of Hatch, McAllister & Raymond came into existence by the admission of James T. McAllister. The offices of the concern are in the Widdicomb building and these lawyers carry on a general practice. They have been identified with some of the most important litigation that has been tried in the courts of Michigan, and in a number of notable cases have won success and distinction. Judge Hatch is a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Michigan State Bar Association and the American Bar Association, and belongs also to the Association of Commerce and the Masonic fraternity. His religious connection is with the Christian Science church. Judge Hatch is thoroughly grounded in elementary knowledge, is industrious and patient in research work and of sound and stable judgment. He is brilliant and powerful in forensic contests, both before juries and in the more formal argument before the court. With such qualifications, at a bar numbering practitioners of the first class in ability and experience, he still retains a foremost position, and with accumulated experience and reputation has a large clientage and profitable

Hosted by Google

employment as a counsellor. Judge Hatch was married Aug. 28, 1872, to Mrs. Esther H. (Sprague) Day, of Traverse City, Mich., who died without issue Feb. 24, 1912.

C. Roy Hatten.—The career of C. Roy Hatten as a practitioner of law has covered only a period of ten years, but during this comparatively short space of time he has risen, through ability, initiative and forceful personality to a leading position among the younger lawyers of the Grand Rapids bar and to a state-wide prominence as one of the most forceful workers in the cause of prohibition. Since his arrival in Grand Rapids, in 1908, he has taken an increasingly active part in affairs of importance as connected with the civic welfare, and there are few who during the cares of an engrossing practice have been able to accomplish so much outside of their profession. Mr. Hatten was born on a farm in Tompkins township, Jackson county, Michigan, July 28, 1885, son of David and Eva (Gallup) Hatten. The family is one of the oldest in this part of the state, Mr. Hatten's great-great-grandfather, Robert Hatten, having taken land from the United States government in Jackson county in 1832. For several generations the family's members were best known in agricultural pursuits and as sound and solid citizens, but of more recent years some of them have turned their attention with equal success to commercial lines and to professional labors. David Hatten has been engaged in business and farming and lives on the old homestead. He has made a success of his operations as a husbandman and is now owner of a handsome and well-cultivated property, on which he and Mrs. Hatten are living in the enjoyment of all material comforts. He is a Republican, and, while not a seeker after personal preferment, has served as a member of the school board and discharged his civic duties otherwise in a commendable and efficient manner. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and he and Mrs. Hatten are active in the Methodist Episcopal church. The only child of his parents, C. Roy Hatten received his early education in the district schools in the vicinity of his father's farm. Subsequently, he took a course at Ithaca High School, in which he was duly graduated, and when still under his majority became assistant treasurer of Montmorency county. He remained in this position only a short time, however, resigning to go to Alpena, where he became general office manager of the Alpena Evening News, a publication with which he was connected for two years. During this time he had fully decided upon a career in the law and accordingly entered the Detroit College of Law, being graduated therein with the class of 1907. For one year he practiced at Detroit, with E. W. Pendleton, and in 1908 came to Grand Rapids, where, until he familiarized himself with the fraternity, he carried on his calling alone. In 1910 he became a member of the firm of Clapperton & Owen and has remained with this strong legal concern to the present time. He has continued as a close and careful student of his calling and with the passing of the years has attracted to himself an important clientage, while at the same time he has made more substantial his standing among his fellow-practitioners and in the Grand Rapids and Michigan State Bar associations. Mr. Hatten is a man who touches life on many sides. He is an active member of the Association of Commerce and for several years was chairman of the City Government Committee. Also, he takes a keen and helpful interest

Hosted by Google

in the work of the Young Men's Christian Association, which organization he has benefitted greatly through his efforts. His religious connections are with the Burton Heights Methodist Episcopal church and the Methodist Episcopal Union. For four years one of the state speakers of the Anti-Saloon League, his work was so effective in behalf of temperance, that, in 1916, he was given the responsible position of organizing Kent county for the dry campaign of 1916, which resulted in an overwhelming defeat for the liquor adherents and the consequent placing of Michigan on the list of states with prohibition laws. In 1917 Mr. Hatten had charge of the organization of the Grand Rapids Citizens' League, which body of citizens was of great influence in persuading the people to elect practical business men as city commissioners under the new form of government. After a year in the city attorney's office, Mr. Hatten resigned May 1, 1918, to again engage in practice and direct the affairs of the Citizens' League in an office at 249-250 Houseman building. The marriage of Mr. Hatten with Ada May Morse, daughter of James and Zoe (Cornwell) Morse, of Detroit, Mich., occurred June 2, 1906. They are the parents of three children: Ernestine, Marian and Elizabeth, the first two attending school.

Captain William Haze was born in Grand Rapids, Feb. 17, 1885, and was educated in the high school of the city. He is one of the few Grand Rapids officers who is unmarried. For a number of years he has been a trusted employe of the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company. His military service began with Company M, in 1903, as a bugler. He went through the line of promotion from corporal to first lieutenant of the machine gun company and was commissioned captain on May 2, 1917. He is an enthusiastic, but level-headed young man and is bound to make his company effective in this very important branch of the service.

Dr. Charles Storm Hazeltine.—Forty of the sixty-eight years of the life of the late Dr. Charles Storm Hazeltine were connected with the city of Grand Rapids and were passed in the midst of the stirring events of her business activities and as a participant in her municipal, political and social growth. Coming to this city in 1872, three years later he founded what was the nucleus for the great enterprise now known as the Hazeltine & Perkins Drug Company, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the state. During the remainder of his life he devoted his able business talents to the building up of this enterprise and lived to see it attain a foremost place among the establishments of the city and to acquire for himself recognition, standing and the remunerations and rewards which are granted those who win success through honorable channels of trade. Doctor Hazeltine was born Oct. 1, 1844, at Jamestown, N. Y., a son of Gilbert W. and Eliza C. (Boss) Hazeltine, the former of English and the latter of German extraction, but both American born, being natives of New York. His grandfather, Laban Hazeltine, was a physician and surgeon of New York, in which state the family was widely and favorably known. Dr. Gilbert W. Hazeltine, who also was a physician, died at Jamestown, in 1892, and Mrs. Hazeltine passed away when her son Charles S. was twelve years old. Charles Storm Hazeltine attended the public schools and Jamestown Academy until he was eighteen years old, subsequently entering the medical depart-

Hosted by Google

ment of the University of Michigan. Later he took a course of lectures at the Albany (N. Y.) Medical College, extending over a course of four months, and did work in a New York hospital as well as the Lying-In Hospital at Buffalo. Returning to Jamestown, he was engaged in practice for about eighteen months, at the end of which time he engaged in the drug business and continued therein at Jamestown until 1872, the year in which he came to Grand Rapids. In 1875 he formed a partnership with the late Charles N. Shepard and engaged in the wholesale drug business, under the firm name of Shepard & Hazeltine, and this continued until 1886, when Mr. Shepard sold his interests to Charles G. Perkins, the firm then becoming the Hazeltine & Perkins Drug Company, this being incorporated for $150,000. In 1888 Doctor Hazeltine purchased Mr. Perkins' interest in the business, but the name remained the same and has continued to this date, the present officials of the company being: A. O. Hazeltine, president; Cornelius Crawford, vice-president; Lee M. Hutchins, treasurer and manager; Harry E. Fairchild, secretary, and Edwin N. Hicks, auditor. The concern now deals in wholesale drugs and sundries, soda fountain supplies, cigars and sporting goods, its territory being included in Michigan and Northern Indiana. Its new modern building, at the corner of Oakes and Commerce avenues, was erected in 1911, and is modern in every respect, having 60,000 square feet of floor space. Eighty people are employed in the establishment, and eleven salesmen are kept on the road. Dr. Hazeltine became prominent in the affairs of the community, was a director of the Grand Rapids National City Bank, and for years was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade. He belonged to Saint Mark's Episcopal church and at one time served as junior warden. His death occurred Dec. 17, 1912. He was a Knight Templar, and also belonged to the Shrine, as well as to a number of literary and social clubs. Originally a Republican, in September, 1893, he was appointed as United States consul to Milan, Italy, but resigned this post in 1895 and subsequently became a Gold Democrat. Doctor Hazeltine was first married in 1868 to Ella C., daughter of Madison Burnell, of Jamestown, N. Y., and they had two children: Eliza Irene, wife of George Bruce Douglas, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Madison Burnell, formerly of Chicago, but now of Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Hazeltine died in 1873, and Doctor Hazeltine was again married, Oct. 17, 1875, to Anna O., daughter of George H. Fox, of Boston, Mass. They also had two children: Fanny D., wife of Adolf Von-Montgelas, of Berlin, Germany, and Delia H., wife of Ralph E. Ellis, of Hubbard Woods, Ill.

Jacob G. Heeringa.—In the Twentieth century, when competition is keen and business life a matter of the survival of the fittest, success demands a decided superiority. This is true at the village four-corners, but it is applicable in a much greater degree in the large cities, where the best brains are enlisted by the large business and financial concerns in striving to produce absolute efficiency and to secure the advantage from each new trend of circumstance. Of the younger generation of men of Grand Rapids who have been called into this competition and who are making the fight with vigor, nerve and discernment, one who has already attained a position of some importance is Jacob G. Heeringa. He has been a resident of Grand

Hosted by Google

Rapids since 1906 and for ten years has been identified with the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, and since 1913 manager of the Fulton Street branch of that institution. Mr. Heeringa was born at East Saugatuck, Allegan county, Michigan, May 3, 1886, son of Jacob G. and Ida (Ellen) Heeringa. His paternal grandfather was Edward Heeringa, who came from the Netherlands and settled near Holland, Mich., where he followed farming until his death. Jacob G. Heeringa, the elder, was born in the Netherlands and was a small child when brought to this country, his boyhood being passed in the neighborhood of Holland, Mich., where he attended the public schools. He was reared on a farm, but as a young man learned the trade of sawyer, which he followed for some years in various mills, but eventually turned his attention to the mercantile business, which proved to be his chief interest in life. For thirty years he was engaged in mercantile lines at East Saugatuck, and at the end of a long, successful and honorable business career he retired from active pursuits and settled down to a life of ease and contentment at his home at Holland, where he still resides. He has been prominent in the communities in which he has lived as a public figure, and while at East Saugatuck served in the capacity of postmaster for a quarter of a century. His political tendencies make him a Republican and his religious connection is with the Christian Reformed church, of which he was a trustee for several years. During the Civil war he served in the Union army for some time, establishing a splendid military record, and is still interested in and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mrs. Heeringa, who was also born in the Netherlands, and who was likewise a small child when brought to the United States, died at Holland, Dec. 22, 1915. They became the parents of the following children: Anna, wife of John Siebelink, of East Saugatuck, Mich.; Margaret, wife of Fred Brouwer, of Holland, Mich.; Edward, a resident of that place; Jennie, wife of Rev. B. Vanwijk, of Grand Rapids; Emma, wife of Rev. W. Bode, of Grundy Center, Ia.; Ida, wife of A. Vegter, of Holland, Mich., and Jacob G., Jr. Jacob G. Heeringa, the younger, was educated in the public schools of East Saugatuck and a private school at Holland and put the finishing touches on his training by attendance at McLachlan's Business University. His first experience of a business character was in connection with a grocery at Holland, but about 1906 disposed of his interests there and came to Grand Rapids, where he was a clerk in a grocery for one year. In 1907 he identified himself with the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, in the capacity of transit clerk, and through close application, energetic and able discharge of his duties, and absolute fidelity to the interests of the institution, gradually won promotion through the various departments until made manager of the Fulton Street branch, Jan. 1, 1913. He has continued to capably handle the business which is done through this branch and has won the right to be accounted a thorough, efficient and energetic representative of the banking methods and interests of the community. Mr. Heeringa is a Republican, but has had no time for politics, although he has always managed to keep in touch with conditions and to give his support and co-operation to beneficial movements, in this connection being a member of the East End Improvement Association. With his family, he belongs to the Christian Reformed church. Mr.

Hosted by Google

Heeringa was married May 14, 1912, to Miss Elsie, daughter of Nicholas and Mathilda (Danielson) Danielson, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of two children—George Donald and Beatrice Marie.

George Hefferan.—While the late George Hefferan was for thirty years a resident of Grand Rapids, and among her most enterprising and substantial citizens, his business interests were so extensive and widespread as to entitle him to claim identity with the great Middle West. His career added another to the many illustrations which Grand Rapids has furnished to the world, of the splendid results which are attained by intelligence, tact and perseverance, when applied to the building up of a great business under the favoring conditions which have, during the past three or four decades, attended all her enterprises. It is true that during this period unusual opportunities have opened to business men, but they have only yielded the meed of great success to those who have had the sagacity to perceive them and the boldness to push them to their best results. The history of the lumber business in Western Michigan has been signalized by the enterprise and ability with which it has been developed, by the extent and magnitude of its operations, and by the munificent reward which it has brought to those who have persistently followed it. It was natural that George Hefferan should identify himself with the lumber trade. He was brought up in that business during the flourishing era of that industry, having been born at Eastmanville, Ottawa county, Michigan, April 19, 1866, a son of the late Thomas Hefferan, a pioneer business man of Grand Rapids and for many years a banker here, whose death occurred Jan. 31, 1915. The early education of George Hefferan was secured at Eastmanville, following which he came to the Furniture City and attended the Grand Rapids Business College until 1886, then entering the Grand Rapids High School, in which he was graduated in 1889. In his youth it was Mr. Hefferan's ambition to follow a professional career, and accordingly he pursued a course in the law department of the University of Michigan, being granted his degree of Bachelor of Laws with the class of 1891. He began practice at that time at Grand Rapids, but during the next several years his interests in the direction of big business so attracted him that he finally gave up the idea of practicing law as a profession, although his knowledge of principles and precedents proved of inestimable value to him during his business operations. In 1896 Mr. Hefferan became identified with the Michigan Trust Company, being placed in charge of the Mecosta County Savings Bank at Big Rapids, and of a number of matters handled by the trust company as receiver. This work was of a special character, but on Jan. 1, 1900, he was appointed trust officer, was elected secretary of the company, Dec. 7, 1903, and on Oct. 6, 1913, was made vice-president, which office he retained until the time of his death. From the year 1895 until his death, Mr. Hefferan also had charge of the Charles Hackley estate for the Michigan Trust Company. Associated with Thomas Hume, of Muskegon, Mich., Mr .Hefferan founded the firm of Hume, Hefferan & Company, one of the important firms handling timber lands and other interests, and as a member of the Hume-Bennett Lumber Company he was largely interested in lumber operations in California. He was a stockholder and officer in a number of business concerns in Michigan, among them being the Hackley & Hume Com-

Hosted by Google

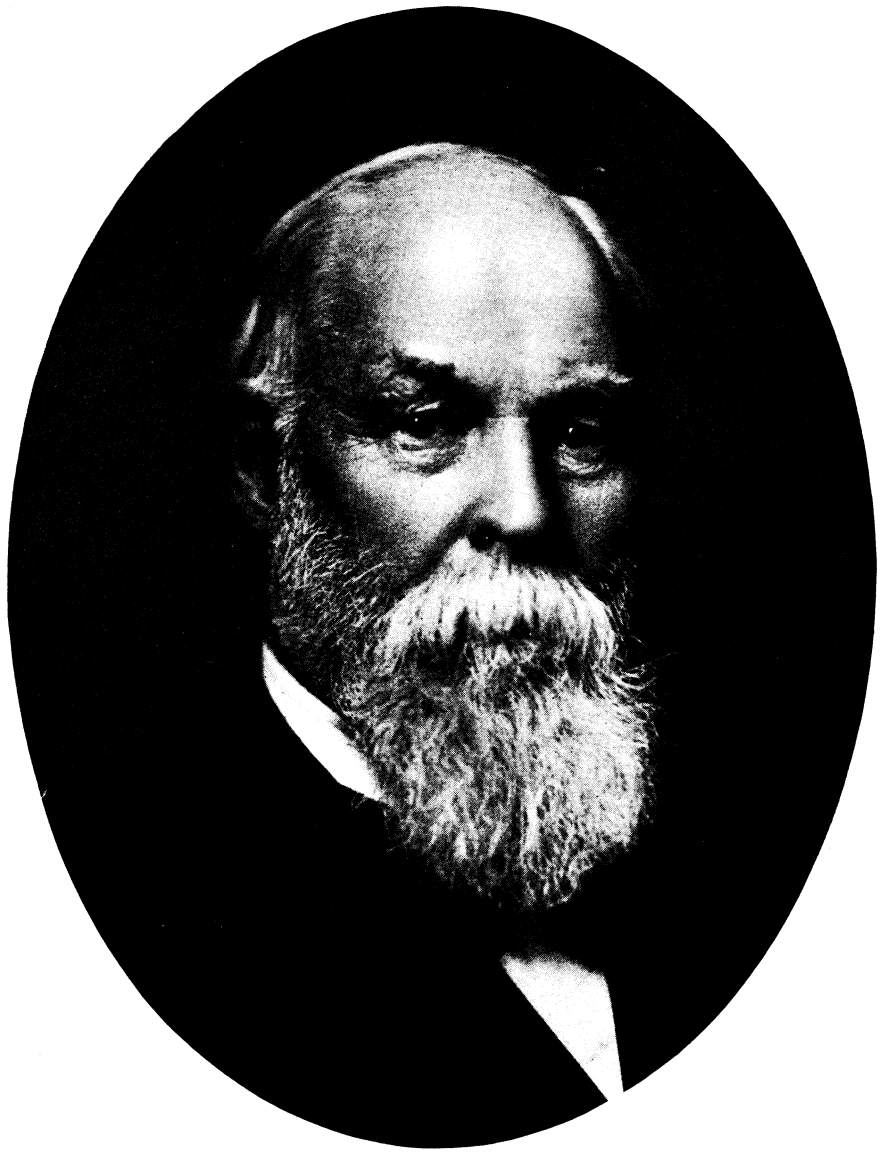


GEORGE HEFFERAN

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Thomas Kopperan

Hosted by Google

pany, Ltd., of which he was chairman of the board of directors, and the Chase-Hackley Piano Company, of Grand Rapids; the Amazon Knitting Company, of Muskegon, and the Richmond & Backus Company, of Detroit, in all of which he held directorships. Mr. Hefferan was married April 15, 1903, to Ella J., daughter of Frederick H. A. Backus, a prominent pioneer citizen of Detroit. Of this union there came two children: George Backus, born June 1, 1906, and Thomas Hume, born Nov. 2, 1908, both now attending school. Mrs. Hefferan is a member of the Episcopal church and of many of the ladies' organizations of the city. Mr. Hefferan was a Democrat in his political affiliation, but not a politician. He belonged to the Peninsular and Kent Country clubs, and was prominent in Masonry, belonging to York Lodge No. 410, A. F. & A. M.; Columbian Chapter No. 132, R. A. M., of which he was past high priest, and De Molai Commandery, K. T.; and he was also a member of Saladin Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. He was a man of many charities, and in his death, which occurred Feb. 9, 1916, Blodgett Memorial Hospital lost a generous friend who had been unceasing in his work in behalf of the institution's interests. Mr. Hefferan was also one of the active workers in the Association of Commerce, and, in fact, in all movements which had for their object the betterment of his city. As banker, business man and citizen, he filled a conspicuous place. He was worthy of the traditions of the state from which he hailed, the distinction of the name which he bore, and the high place which he filled so honorably and so well.

Thomas Hefferan, whose death occurred July 31, 1915, was one of the strong and forceful figures in the business and financial life of Grand Rapids for many years, and he was president of the People's Savings Bank from its inception, in 1890, until his demise. He was born July 28, 1831, in Washington county, New York, and when nine years of age was taken by his parents from the Empire State to Barry county, Michigan, the little party making the trip by canal boat to Detroit, then taking a train on the newly completed Michigan Central railway to the terminal at Ypsilanti, and making the last stage of the journey by teams and wagons to their destination. In 1846 the family removed to the Grand River Valley, where they settled on a farm, and there Thomas Hefferan received a limited education in the district schools. Leaving home in 1848, he entered the employ of Dr. Timothy Eastman, who resided in Ottawa county, on Grand river, at a point since known as Eastmanville. The doctor was a farmer and lumberman as well as a physician, and Mr. Hefferan remained in his employ for three years. In 1851 he accepted a position under Galen Eastman, a son of Dr. Eastman, in his lumber yard at Chicago, and remained there until 1858, successively and successfully filling the offices of yard foreman, salesman and general manager. The panic of 1857 had so depressed business that he decided to return to Michigan, and there continued to have general charge of the business of Mr. Eastman. In January, 1865, he engaged in the lumber business on his own account, and in 1869 purchased a saw-mill at Eastmanville from his former employer. He built up a good business through energy, sagacity and good management, but in 1889, when it became evident that the forests of Southern Michigan would no longer respond to the demand for logs, he closed out his business

Hosted by Google

and took his family to Grand Rapids, where he resided until his death. In 1890 Mr. Hefferan was one of the organizers of the People's Savings Bank of Grand Rapids, and was elected a director of the new institution and chosen to fill the responsible position of president, a post which he still retained when he died. He was also for many years a stockholder of the Old National Bank of Grand Rapids and a stockholder and director of the Michigan Trust Company of that city. Politically, Mr. Hefferan was a Democrat, but political honors never had any charm to lure him from his business and financial interests. When the national convention, convened at Chicago in 1896, gave to the country the platform which recommended the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, Mr. Hefferan decided not to support that measure and was one of the first to propose and assist in the organization of the Sound Money Democratic party. He was a faithful attendant of the Park Congregational church and was widely known in Masonry, in which he attained the thirty-second degree. The following is quoted from the Michigan Tradesman, which, in 1913, printed a biography of Mr. Hefferan: "With a well-rounded forehead rising above calm eyes, with a quiet manner which would be almost shy were it not for the evident self-reliance back of it, with a face that shows patient strength, with the very evident combination of a sound mind in a sound body, such is Thomas Hefferan, a man who has carved out—we might say he hewed out—of the forests of Michigan his fortune. With no prestige of wealth or family influence, with no gifts from favoring fortune, with nothing but the stout heart and indomitable will, ready brains and strong hands, he has made himself a place among the notable men of the city and state, although aided by his innate love of right, which impelled him to deal fairly with all men; and so, not rising on the shoulders of or at the expense of others, he has made his position sure. It has not been a selfish career, that of the man with whom we treat, except as all effort which has as one of its results the accumulation of wealth is to some extent self-centered. He has been and is a man among men. He has had his intimate friends, his business associates, those who have aided him and those whom he has aided; so that the story of Thomas Hefferan is also the story of other business men with whom he has worked hand-in-hand, apparently in fullest accord. Indeed, we may believe from the character of the man, his patience and fairness, that what seems to be is the fact. The outline history of his life goes to show that such is the case. * * * Throughout his long and active business life Mr. Hefferan has never lost sight of the lumber interests of Michigan, and, practically speaking, may be said to have seen the rise and decay of that industry in the state. The forests through which he trudged as a boy and worked in in young manhood and which were supposedly almost illimitable in extent and resource, have long ago fallen and given place to the prosperous farms and fruit lands for which Western Michigan is now noted. During the years in which the farmer's boy has, by straightforward energy and upright principles, become the successful lumber manufacturer and honored banker, he has seen the log cabin of the earliest settler give way to the neat and comfortable cottage, the village supplanted by the town, the wilderness transformed into populous cities, peopled by wealthy and intelligent citizens. He has seen benches of the old

Hosted by Google

log schoolhouses built by the pioneers for the welfare of their children supplanted by the polished desks in the great brick structures of our present elaborate school system; while churches, academies, business houses, railroads and all the appliances of modern civilization crowd the territory where in his boyhood were only the forest, the deer and the Indian. With what interest will such a life be regarded in the future by generations who will fail fully to comprehend the hardships and toils of those whose history is that of the past half century, the history of the state of Michigan." Mr. Hefferan married Emily Kent, a native of Vermont, and they became the parents of three children: George, who died Feb. 9, 1916; Mary, a resident of Grand Rapids, and Thomas William.

Thomas William Hefferan.—Among the men who represent the financial interests of Grand Rapids, one of the best known is Thomas William Hefferan, cashier of the People's Savings Bank. He came to this institution in 1900, straight from college halls, and his entire career has since been devoted to its progress and the extension of its usefulness, while at the same time he has himself broadened and matured until he has taken rank with the substantial and conservative bankers of the Furniture City. Mr. Hefferan was born July 22, 1876, at Eastmanville, Mich., and is a son of Thomas and Emily (Kent) Hefferan. He received his education in the public and high schools of Grand Rapids, and was then sent to Yale University, where he was graduated with the class of 1900. On July 5 of that year he entered the People's Savings Bank of Grand Rapids, rose rapidly to the position of manager, and finally was made cashier, which position he holds today. He holds rank among the men who are carefully conserving the interests of individual and business interests, and has a wide acquaintance in banking circles throughout this part of the state. Politically, like his father, he is a Democrat, and also like the elder man has played only a good citizen's role in the game of politics. He belongs to Park Congregational church, of which he is a trustee, is a member of the various Masonic bodies, and holds membership in the Association of Commerce and the Peninsular, Schubert and Kent Country clubs. Mr. Hefferan was married Oct. 18, 1904, to Miss Blanche Fuller, daughter of William Fuller, M. D., of Grand Rapids, and they have been the parents of five children: Margaret F., who is deceased, and Mary Eleanor, Thomas William, Jr., Robert F. and Emeline Kent.

Noah F. Helsel.—Few men who attain the age of seventy years bear so few of the marks and scars of the warfare of modern agricultural and business life as does Noah F. Helsel. In a vast majority of cases those who attain a large measure of success cannot justly claim that their paths have not been strewn with the wrecks of other men's fortunes. Noah F. Helsel, however, is one who from a most humble financial position has worked his way upward to wealth and prominence and at the same time has enjoyed in full measure the honor and respect of his fellow-men by reason of the straightforward business policy which he has ever followed. A resident of Algoma township since the pioneer days, when there were still plentiful evidence of the frontier life, he has figured during his career as one of his community's leading citizens and as a promoter of the most progressive tenets of agriculture. Mr. Helsel belongs to

Hosted by Google

one of his community's earliest families. He was born in Algoma township, Kent county, Michigan, Aug. 12, 1848, son of Henry and Julia Ann (Helsel) Helsel, who removed from Pennsylvania, their native state, to Ohio, and came to Algoma township among the pioneer settlers in 1844. Here Henry Helsel purchased eighty acres of land from the United States government, on which his first work was the clearing of a spot in the timber so that he might erect a rude log cabin to serve as the original family home in the wilderness. His first years were practically identical with those of other sturdy pioneers, but he faced his hardships and privations willingly, for he was ambitious to make a success of his life and saw the opportunity before him. His continuous industry, intense energy, and unwavering determination soon placed his feet upon the high road to success, and before his first tract was entirely cleared and put under cultivation he was making arrangements for the purchase of more land. Subsequently, he added 320 acres to his original purchase, and about that time moved into more comfortable and commodious quarters, supplied by a good frame house of his own erection. Still later, this successful and hard-working man was able to increase the extent of his acreage by the purchase of an entire section of land. Not only was he prominent and successful as an extensive agriculturist and large landholder, but because of his activity in public affairs, where he was an influential factor in the civic life of the community. He was a Democrat in his political views and for a number of years occupied school offices and acted as overseer of the poor in Algoma township. He and the members of his family belonged to the Disciples church. By his first wife, Julia Ann Helsel, Mr. Helsel had the following children: Francis, who died at the age of sixteen years; Noah F., of this review; Jeremiah, and Darius, deceased. By his second wife, Sarah Deer, he had the following issue: Amberth; James, deceased; Zotas and Zora, twins; Cleon and Frankie. Noah F. Helsel attended the primitive district schools of Algoma township, but the greater part of his education was secured while wielding the axe and saw in the woods, while his training came in the academy of hard work and experience. His father was a man of comfortable circumstances and could have afforded to start the youth off well in life, but he believed that hard work was greatly beneficial, called upon his sons to make their own way, and taught them to respect the value of a dollar. Also Noah F. Helsel was independent and self-reliant and desired to ask help from no one, not even his father. He continued to work on the elder man's place until he was thirty-five years of age, by which time he had accumulated sufficient funds with which to buy forty-three acres of land. Much of the money for this had been earned by working in the lumber woods during the winter months. Later he added ninety-three acres to his original purchase, and he is still the owner of his well-developed property, which lies in sections 21 and 22. It is productive and fertile, has fine improvements and substantial buildings, and its apparent prosperity and attractiveness are a credit to the ability and good management of its owner as an agriculturist and business man. Mr. Helsel is a Republican and at various times during his career has served in school offices, although he has not been a politician or an avowed seeker for public office. With the members of his family he belongs to the United Brethren

Hosted by Google

church. Mr. Helsel was married in December, 1884, to Miss Abbie Rowsen, daughter of Harley Rowsen, a well-known agriculturist of Algoma township, and of this union have been born the following children: Verdie, wife of Albert Cane, of Algoma township, and has one child, Clair; Ora, a farmer of Sparta township, who has a son, Dale, and Ray resides at home and assists his father in the operation of the homestead place.

Gustaf A. Hemple.—Among the general practitioners of law at Grand Rapids, one who has won success and recognition in his profession and a satisfying and representative clientage within the short period of five years is Gustaf A. Hemple. Mr. Hemple entered upon his career with an excellent training and prior to coming to Grand Rapids had practiced for over two years on the Pacific coast. His real success, however, has been attained in the Furniture City, where, owing to a wealth of legal talent of a high order, the mere possession of a place of prominence argues for the holder something more than ordinary talent. Mr. Hemple is a native son of Michigan and was born at Jackson, Jan. 24, 1885, son of Ernest and Emma (Peterson) Hemple, natives of Sweden. His father, who is a mechanic by trade, came to the United States in 1866 and first settled at Jackson, where for nearly twenty years he was identified with various concerns and in numerous capacities. In the year of his son's birth, 1885, he removed with Mrs. Hemple and their three children to Grand Rapids and this city has continued to be their home to the present time. Mr. Hemple has been an industrious and hard-working man and good citizen, who has reared a family of sons to take honorable positions in the world and to be a credit to their communities, their birth and their training. The children were: Charles, a resident of Chicago, Ill.; Fred, whose death occurred in 1903; Gustaf A., of this notice; Emil, Albin and Henry, who are all business men of Chicago, and Edith, the only daughter, who is deceased. Gustaf A. Hemple was an infant in arms when brought by his parents to Grand Rapids, and in this city the greater part of his life has been passed. He grew up here and attended the public grammar and high schools, and here it was that he determined upon the law as his life work, although his training for his profession was largely received elsewhere. After some preparation Mr. Hemple went to Chicago, where he pursued a full course at the Chicago Law School, being duly graduated in 1908 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws and admitted to the bar in the same year. Mr. Hemple remained at Chicago for a short period and also spent a short time in other communities of the Middle West, finally going to the Pacific coast and locating at Astoria, Ore., where he remained for two and one-half years. While he was successful in his practice at that point, he was attracted back to the state of his birth, and in 1912 returned to Grand Rapids, this time to open an office and start a professional business. Since that time his practice, which is of a general character, has grown in importance and in size and the success which has been his in a number of important cases has stamped him as one of the rising young lawyers of the Grand Rapids bar. His offices are located in the Commercial Bank building. He belongs to the Grand Rapids Bar Association, among the members of which he has numerous warm friends, and to various of the clubs of the city, in which he is also popular. In his political stand he is

Hosted by Google

independent, preferring to rely upon his own judgment in making a choice of candidates rather than to blindly follow the lead of party. His only public office is that of assistant city attorney, in which he is serving at the present writing. Mr. Hemple's parents are members of the Lutheran church, in the faith of which he was reared, and to which he now belongs. He has a high standing in Masonry, belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Council, Consistory and Knights Templar, and is also a Shriner and a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Hemple was married, June 21, 1910, to Freda Katherine, daughter of John and Fredricka (Johnson) Newberg, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of three children—Gustaf A., Jr., Ruth Katherine and Alice Margaret Elizabeth.

Col. Joseph Carl Herkner.—Combined with a righteous sense of civic and military duty and an unflagging interest in the affairs of his municipality, the late Col. Joseph Carl Herkner had a vast experience with people and affairs and made an enviable record of achievement during his life at Grand Rapids. When he came to this city in 1849 he was only a poor German immigrant lad, but he successively became a Civil war hero, a successful man of business, a distinguished citizen, a prominent figure in national guard circles and a well-known factor in fraternal matters, as well as a constructive worker in civic and philanthropic movements. Colonel Herkner was born at Kratzau, Bohemia, Dec. 1, 1840, son of Joseph Herkner, who immigrated to the United States in 1849, arriving at Grand Rapids Nov. 15 of that year. The elder man died less than a year after coming to Grand Rapids and this left the son somewhat dependent upon himself and denied him many of the advantages that he would have secured otherwise. However, he managed to obtain a common school education and when he was sixteen years of age began to serve his apprenticeship to the business in which he was destined later to reach such prosperity, in the store of N. T. Butler. At the end of four years he had mastered his trade and accepted a position as clerk and watch repairman in the Pearl street store of George Barnard, a pioneer jeweler and bookseller. His career was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, and when the call to arms came, following the firing upon Fort Sumter, he was one of the first to enlist, joining Company D, First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, one of the first organized volunteer commands in the state, and later one of the most famous. As a member of this command he marched to the sea with the forces of General Sherman and took part in some of the hardest-fought battles of the entire war, and through fidelity, devotion to duty and gallantry in action won promotion. In November, 1861, he became first lieutenant, having advanced from private and orderly sergeant, and in February, 1864, was made captain, with which rank he returned to Grand Rapids at the close of hostilities. Shortly after resuming his civilian duties, Colonel Herkner embarked in business as a partner in the Hodenpyl store, with which he was identified until 1870, and in that year engaged in an enterprise of his own, with a modest stock of jewelry and a repair bench at No. 25 Monroe street. His aptitude for the business, with his industry and his faculty for satisfying even the most exacting patrons, brought the natural results of continuous and substantial growth and expansion. Today the J. C. Herkner symbol of quality and its trade extends over many

Hosted by Google

states. As a business man the Colonel was accounted shrewd and of good judgment, an admirable executive, and a man of the strictest and most unbending integrity. Everywhere his name was honored and respected in trade and commercial circles, and his connection with a number of other enterprises redounded to the benefit of those concerns. His interest in military affairs did not terminate with the close of the Civil war, for in 1872 he organized Company B of the local militia and remained as its captain for four years. Still later he was appointed lieutenant-colonel and inspector of brigade on the staff of Gen. I. C. Smith. In the development of fraternal organizations at Grand Rapids, and especially of the Masonic order, he was an active and helpful factor. In the higher rites of Masonry he attained to eminent honors. His efforts in behalf of the order qualified him for admittance into the inner sanctuary of the most exalted exemplars of Masonic principles, he being one of the thirty-third degree Masons in Grand Rapids. He was a past commander of DeMolai Commandery No. 5, K. T., and a member of Grand River Lodge No. 34, F. & A. M.; Grand Rapids Chapter No. 7, R. A. M.; Tyre Council No. 10, York Rite; DeWitt Clinton Consistory, A. A. O. S. R.; and Saladin Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S. He belonged also to Lodge No. 48, B. P. O. E., and from the date of its organization held membership in the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, having also belonged to its predecessor, the Board of Trade. Colonel Herkner never lost his interest in Grand Rapids, which for many years benefitted by his public-spirited, liberal and stanch support. He was always an active worker and his unselfish devotion to its interests was of lasting benefit to its material welfare. Contemplation of his character emphasizes the fact that a man is largely what he aims to make himself and that true dignity of bearing and nobility of soul are recognized and appreciated. He was a man who never allowed personal desire for gain to interfere with his usefulness to others, and this was commented on at the time of his death. Colonel Herkner was married in 1867, at Grand Rapids, to Miss Clara Calkins, who died in 1910, leaving a daughter, Miss Elizabeth Herkner, of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Herkner was a daughter of Charles Philo Calkins, who was born at Hinesburg, Vt., Jan. 24, 1803, a son of Charles Calkins, who brought the family to Grand Rapids in 1836. Charles P. Calkins became a leading lawyer and real estate operator at Grand Rapids, and after a long, honorable and successful career died, Sept. 3, 1890. He was a Democrat in politics and a consistent member of St. Mark's Episcopal cathedral. He married Dec. 31, 1839, Mary Anne Hinsdill, daughter of Hiram Hinsdill, of Grand Rapids, and they became the parents of seven children: Charles Walbridge, of Grand Rapids; Clara L., who died as Mrs. Herkner; William H. and Henry W., twins, the former a resident of Detroit and the latter deceased; Anna R., of Grand Rapids; Cora, wife of James W. Thompson, of Detroit, and George J., deceased. Colonel Herkner passed to his final rest, March 17, 1914, after an illness that had confined him to his home, at 264 State street, S. E., for three weeks. Funeral services were held two days later at the residence, with Dean Francis S. White, of St. Mark's officiating, and the Masonic funeral rites were conducted by DeMolai Commandery of the Knights Templar. The pall-bearers were selected from the members of the Commandery and interment was made

Hosted by Google

at the Fulton Street cemetery. The military services were conducted by the Grand Rapids battalion, Maj. Earl R. Stewart commanding, and the entire membership taking part. Clad in dress uniforms, the four companies marched in the funeral procession from the residence on State street to the cemetery, where three salutes were fired over the grave. A guard of honor named from the enlisted men detailed to that duty was stationed at the house all day preceding the funeral and up until the hour of that event on the day of the last sad rites. The Herkner Jewelry Company, of Grand Rapids, of which Colonel Herkner was the capable chief executive up to the time of his death, was incorporated in August, 1892, with a capital of $50,000, and has since enjoyed a steady and continuous growth. Its first officers were J. C. Herkner, president; W. S. Hull, vice-president; C. H. Annin, secretary, and William J. Stuart, treasurer. Three years later Louis Russell became vice-president, J. W. Thompson was made treasurer, and William J. Stuart assumed the secretarial duties. At the time of Colonel Herkner's death in 1914, Mr. Russell ascended to the presidential office and also has the title of manager, while Miss Elizabeth Herkner, only daughter of the founder of the business, became vice-president. When William J. Stuart died, Jan. 20, 1915, Ralph H. Wanamaker became treasurer of the concern and James W. Thompson secretary. The firm carries the largest and most complete stock of jewelry, diamonds and other precious stones, sterling silverware, plated wares and optical goods in Western Michigan and the name of the house is an absolute guarantee of high quality and masterly workmanship. Louis Russell, president of the company, was born at Utica, N. Y., Feb. 2, 1865. He attended the Utica public schools, and after his graduation from Utica Academy, in 1883, became a goldsmith apprentice in the establishment of W. S. Taylor, a well-known Central New York jeweler. He completed his trade there and when still a young man went to Indianapolis, where he held a position with one of the leading houses of that city, and Sept. 1, 1892, arrived in Grand Rapids to enter the J. C. Herkner Company. He was elected vice-president of the company Feb. 12, 1906, and president, March 20, 1914, at the time of Colonel Herkner's death. Mr. Russell has passed thirty-five years in the jewelry business and has a remarkable record for faithfulness to duty, having never missed a day through sickness or accident in the last twenty-five years. He is one of the best-known men in the jewelry business today and is an honored and trusted figure in commercial circles, where he has connections with several enterprises. He is a member of the Association of Commerce and the Peninsular club, in which he has held membership for some years. Mr. Russell is unmarried.

Louis T. Herman.—The claim of Louis T. Herman to a position of importance among the professional men of Grand Rapids rests upon ten years of successful law practice, during which period he has been connected with a number of noteworthy cases in the courts and litigation which has represented material and personal interests of prominence. He is one of Kent county's native sons, having been born at Caledonia, Oct. 23, 1874, in which locality, his parents, John and Sophia (Schroeder) Herman, had settled in 1866. John Herman was a farmer by vocation and from the time of his early arrival in the county contributed to its agricultural advancement and develop-

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



HENRY J. HEYSTEK

Hosted by Google

ment until called away by death. While reared on the farm and in a more or less agricultural atmosphere, Louis T. Herman did not care for a career amid rural surroundings, and at an early age decided that his life work would lie amidst professional workers. After attending the public schools of Caledonia and graduating in the high school there, he took a course at Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind., as a preparatory matter, and subsequently furthered himself by a course at Ferris Institute, Big Rapids, Mich. For eleven years he was connected with educational work, eight of which he served as superintendent of the Caledonia High School. His preparation for entrance upon the work of his chosen calling was completed at the University of Michigan, where he was graduated in law in 1908 with his degree. Admitted to the bar in the same year, he centered his activities at Grand Rapids, where he has since worked his way steadily upward to an enviable position in the ranks of his calling. Mr. Herman's clientele, which is a large and representative one, is composed of some of the leading interests of the city. His practice is a general one in character and he is considered equally at home in any of the departments of his profession. His well-appointed offices are located in the Grand Rapids Savings Bank building. A man of broad learning, he continues to be a scholar, and keeps abreast of his profession by constant study and membership in the various law associations. He is a Republican politically. Like other public-spirited men, he takes a keen interest in the welfare of Grand Rapids and his services at all times may be commanded by his city. For four years Mr. Herman served as a member of the county board of examiners of Kent county, and for five and one-half years he was assistant prosecuting attorney of Kent county.

Henry J. Heystek.—Aggressive and progressive methods, keen insight into commercial conditions, a thorough and far-reaching appreciation of the needs of the trade, and a reputation for integrity that was beyond reproach, were some of the characteristics which developed the late Henry J. Heystek into a successful factor in the business competition of the city of Grand Rapids and resulted in the establishment and growth of a large enterprise identified with the wall-paper and paint industry. Great enterprises are being conducted along somewhat different lines from those pursued several decades ago, but the older ones have attained to their present prosperity through the manipulations of their founders, who, their work completed, have passed from their sphere of usefulness, leaving behind as a valued heritage the firm foundations upon which their business houses have been erected. So with Mr. Heystek. It was his fortune and ability to so build his business structure that it survives today as a monument to his industry and capability. Mr. Heystek was born in Holland, Dec. 6, 1862, and was ten years of age when brought to the United States, his education being completed in the city schools of Grand Rapids. He was industrious and ambitious as a youth and when still in his early 'teens obtained a position in a large furniture factory. After a period spent in this kind of work he became a clerk in the wall-paper and paint store of H. M. Gobel, on old Canal street, where he thoroughly mastered the business. Later he was with C. Harvey, and in 1893 with that gentleman founded the firm of Harvey & Heystek, this business continuing successfully for five years,

Hosted by Google

when the partnership was mutually dissolved. In 1898 was formed the concern known as Heystek & Canfield Company, with Mr. Heystek as president and F. C. Canfield vice-president, and with this enterprise Mr. Heystek continued to be identified until his death, which occurred Jan. 22, 1912. The present officers of the company are David Wolf, president; H. J. Heystek, Jr., vice-president, secretary and general manager, and H. E. Wilson, treasurer. The buildings of the company are completely equipped in every way, are modern and sanitary, and are commodious in size and attractive in architecture. The company does a wholesale business, handling wall-paper, paints, oils, etc., and employs about seventy people in the plant, with eighteen salesmen on the road, a branch office at St. Louis, Mo., and a district office at Cincinnati. The products of this company have a large sale in Indiana, Ohio, part of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. Mr. Heystek had the reputation in business circles of being a man of absolute integrity, a capable, cool-headed man in business, and a good friend to have at all times. His death removed a useful and public-spirited citizen who had done much for his community. Henry J. Heystek, Jr., son of the founder of the above business, was born at Grand Rapids, July 27, 1892, and received his early education in the graded and high schools of this city. Later he attended the Detroit University school and the Michigan Agricultural College, until the death of Henry J. Heystek, Sr., at which time he returned to Grand Rapids and began to familiarize himself with the details of the business of which his father had been the head. At the time of the reorganization and incorporation of the business he was elected secretary, vice-president and general manager, and these offices he has retained to this time. He is a young man of spirit and energy, with much of his father's resource and initiative, and his work is doing much to make the company's operations a success. In politics he is a Republican and his religious connection is with Grace Episcopal church. Fraternally, he belongs to the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he also holds membership in the Grand Rapids Rotary club and the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. Mr. Heystek was married Aug. 20, 1913, to Miss Gertrude Bolden, and of this union there has been born a son, Henry J. III., deceased.

Albert S. Hicks.—Every live community demands of its press representatives a certain amount of honorable publicity, and this kind of matter can be presented to the public only by firms and men who are qualified for such work through knowledge and experience. At Grand Rapids, acknowledged to be the leading furniture manufacturing city of the country, competition is so strenuous in all departments that to be a leader means that one is entitled to much more than ordinary prestige. Therefore, it is to be stated without fear of contradiction that the Dean-Hicks Company should be given a prominent place when the archives of this city are annotated. This printing, publishing, engraving and book-binding company, which makes a special feature of publicity matter, has come into the front rank during recent years and has become known as one of Grand Rapids' best boosting organizations. Much of the credit for the growth and development of this thirty-year-old concern should be given to Albert S. Hicks, who is president of the firm and has been a Michigan resi-

Hosted by Google

dent since 1866. Mr. Hicks was born at Machias, N. Y., Oct. 12, 1863, and was three years of age when brought by his parents to Michigan, the family settling at Wayland. In that community the youth gained his initiatory educational training, passing his vacations in assisting his father, who was a manufacturer of bent work for buggies and wagons. Subsequently, young Hicks was a student at Swensberg's Business College at Grand Rapids, and when he left that institution he entered upon his business career as a clerical worker in the Grand Rapids National Bank, where he spent one year. After this he returned to Wayland, where he remained as his father's assistant for two or three years and then came back to Grand Rapids as bookkeeper for the O-Wash-ta-nong club, with whom he remained two years. Mr. Hicks then commenced his connection with the firm of which he is now president. This was established, in 1889, as the Dean Printing & Publishing Company, the first officers being as follows: William Dunham, president; S. E. Watson, vice-president; A. S. Hicks, treasurer; J. H. Brownell, secretary; H. K. Dean, manager. This was an incorporated company and its offices were located on the fifth floor of the Blodgett building, about fifteen people being employed. Later, it was reincorporated as the Dean-Hicks Printing Company and in 1911 the present style was adopted, the company being now The Dean-Hicks Company. In that year the company moved into its new building, at 215-225 Ellsworth avenue, S. W. Here they have four floors, each with a floor space of 141x110 feet. On the pay-roll of the company there are more than 100 people, and in addition to the work which the concern does in the way of job printing, engraving, commercial photography and binding, it issues "Good Furniture," a magazine devoted to the furniture trade. The present concern is a $200,000 corporation, its officers being: Albert S. Hicks, president; J. H. Neeland, vice-president, and J. G. Groberg, secretary. Mr. Hicks' standing in the business circles of Grand Rapids is one of the kind that cannot be questioned. While responsibility in citizenship has always appealed to him, he has not cared to enter the lists for candidacy on any party's list in politics and has always maintained an independent stand. He is a Mason and a Shriner and is also socially inclined, holding membership in the O-Wash-ta-nong and Highlands Golf clubs. Like other good business men of the Furniture City, he boosts civic affairs, being one of the members of the Association of Commerce and the Greater Grand Rapids Association. Mr. Hicks was married Sept. 17, 1890, to Miss Lelia F. Wicks, daughter of John H. Wicks, of Allegan county, Michigan. Two sons have blessed this union: Russell A., who is wearing his country's uniform as a member of the United States marine corps, and Kenneth K., with his parents.

Sylvester P. Hicks was born in Lenawee county, Michigan, Jan. 15, 1844, son of John and Jane (Winegar) Hicks, natives of Rensselaer county, New York. The father was reared in that county and later removed to Wayne county, in the same state, where he followed farming, and he came to Michigan in 1836. The journey was made by the way of the Erie canal and Lake Erie to Detroit, from which place he drove through to Lenawee county, where he entered 160 acres of land. He erected a log house for his first habitation and finally developed a fine homestead, where he and his wife both died,

Hosted by Google

he at the age of seventy-three years and she at sixty-eight. In company with other New York state residents, they organized what was known as the West Rome Baptist church and were very active in religious work. John Hicks was an early Whig in politics, and later became an abolitionist, and was very active in the movement known as the "Underground Railway," keeping a "station" and aiding escaping slaves to reach Canada. To him and his good wife were born three children. Roswell H. lived on the home farm and died there at the age of sixty-three years. Joseph W. graduated in Kalamazoo College in 1859 and in 1863 bought a farm at Plainwell, Mich., living thereon three years and then moved into the village of Plainwell, and he served as surveyor of Allegan county twelve years, platting the village of Plainwell. He served for a time as professor of mathematics in Kalamazoo College and in the early '70s engaged in the banking business under the firm name of Soule & Hicks. He was a very successful business man and at his death, in 1893, he left a substantial fortune in Plainwell, giving to that village "Hicks Park." He was an active member of the Baptist church and his residence was given to his widow and at her death it was to be given to that religious denomination as a parsonage. He married Nellie Davis, who was one of the first graduates in Kalamazoo College. Sylvester P. Hicks, whose name introduces this biographical review, received his preliminary education in the Adrian High School and in the Autumn of 1860 entered Kalamazoo College. In April, 1861, he enlisted in the Second Michigan infantry for three months. Owing to parental objection he did not enter the three-year enlistment with that regiment, but in 1862 he became a member of the Fifth Michigan cavalry, with which he served until April, 1863, when he was discharged on account of disability. But he saw considerable service with the regiment. In August, 1864, he joined the American navy and served on the flagship "Black Hawk" in the Mississippi squadron until the close of the war. After the close of hostilities he returned to Kalamazoo and completed his college course, graduating in June, 1867. He worked at surveying in Allegan county the following season and then engaged in teaching. For two years he was superintendent of the high school at Douglass and in the Autumn of 1870 he came to Lowell, where he officiated as superintendent of schools for seven years, and he has since made this place his home. In 1877 he opened an insurance office in Lowell and has been thus occupied continuously up to the present time. Mr. Hicks chose as his life partner Miss Emily Dwight, and their married life was a happy one until her death, which occurred in March, 1911. Both of them were active in the work of the Baptist church. Mr. Hicks is a member of Joseph Wilson post, G. A. R., at Lowell, having served five years as commander and is now adjutant. He is also a Mason, belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Knights Templars, and in the auxiliary organization, the Eastern Star, he has served four terms as worthy patron. Mr. Hicks is a Republican in politics and his worth as a citizen has been recognized by election to a number of official positions.

Orton Hill.—An early settler of Lowell, whither he came in 1867, the late Orton Hill was for many years connected with the business interests of this community, and at the time of his death was president of the City State Bank of Lowell, of which he had been

Hosted by Google

the reorganizer. Mr. Hill, during the long period of his residence in Kent county, maintained an unblemished record for business fairness and integrity, while his home community knew him as a citizen whose energies and support were always at the call of worthy movements, whether of a civic, educational or charitable nature. Orton Hill was born at Cherry Creek, Chautauqua county, New York, March 21, 1848, son of Horatio and Sophia (Weatherly) Hill, natives of that state. He received his education in the public school of his native place, and when, at the age of seventeen years, President Lincoln made his last call for volunteers, was one of the youths to answer the summons and form a company from his home locality, although this unit was never called out of the state. In 1867 Mr. Hill came to Lowell and located near the Grand Trunk railroad, being employed by the Brown-Hinman Company, with which he remained five years. In 1873 he transferred his services to the Reading Hardware Company, of Reading, Pa., and for a number of years was the traveling representative of this concern through the states of the Middle West. He became one of the best-known figures in the hardware trade in this section of the country, and his friends were legion in all the large cities. After a long and successful career as a traveling salesman, Mr. Hill settled down at Lowell, where he had numerous business interests, and in 1907 succeeded in the reorganization of the City State Bank of Lowell, which was capitalized at $25,000, and of which he was president from that time until his death. He passed away Feb. 24, 1912, and was laid to rest in the Lowell cemetery. Mr. Hill was married Feb. 4, 1880, to Mary A., daughter of Artemus R. and Mary (McDowell) Hoag, and of this union were born five children: LeRoy, connected with the firm of Foster, Stevens & Company, at Grand Rapids; Artemus H., proprietor of a shoe store at Lowell and the father of five children—Mary Janet, James B., Helen Rose, Robert Orton, and Elizabeth; Marion, who is the wife of Ralph Nixon, and has one child—Lawrence H.; Florence, who is the wife of G. C. Conklin, of Grand Rapids, and has two children—Russell and Norman Jack; and Helen, who died in infancy. Artemus R. Hoag was born in New York in 1817, of English descent, and in 1841 came to Michigan, where he experienced all the hardships and privations of the pioneers, while at the same time sharing in the great work that brought about civilization. When he arrived the country was still teeming with wild life, wolves and deer being found in abundance, while the Indians had not yet left their hunting grounds and were a constant menace to the white settlers. He engaged in farming, cleared a large amount of land, and at his death was one of the substantial men of his community. He was a member of the Masons and of the Grange and in every way had the respect of his fellow-citizens. He was married Feb. 22, 1844, at Ypsilanti, Mich., to Mary McDowell, who was born in 1822, in Wayne county, New York, and died Dec. 3, 1894. Mrs. Hill, who survives her husband, is still a resident of Lowell, where she is known for her activities in church work and her charity, and where she has many sincere friends.

Robert G. Hill.—Since 1904, Robert G. Hill has been identified in one or another capacity with public offices at Grand Rapids, and from 1915 has been the incumbent of the position of county clerk of Kent county. The greater part of his life has been spent in this com-

Hosted by Google

munity, for when brought here he was still a lad in his early 'teens, and the entire period of his business and public career has been passed among the people of this city. Mr. Hill was born at Woodstock, Ontario, Canada, March 23, 1875, and is a son of Robert J. and Emily (Hicks) Hill, natives of Canada. Robert J. Hill was born in the city of Toronto, and for many years was engaged in farming in the province of Ontario, but in 1889 changed his residence to the United States, in that year bringing his children to Michigan, his wife having passed away on the farm two years before. Settling at Grand Rapids, Mr. Hill secured employment in the furniture factories of this city and continued to be thus engaged until about 1912, when he retired from active pursuits and went to Zephyr Hills, Fla., where he now makes his home. He is a Democrat in his political views, is a Mason and a Maccabee, and belongs to the Episcopal church, of which Mrs. Hill was also a member. There were five children in the family, namely: Lillian, wife of Arthur Love, of St. Joseph, Mich.; Robert G.; Richard, a resident of Benton Harbor, Mich.; Daisy, deceased, who was the wife of Charles Tibbitts, and Mildred, who is the wife of Wilbur Meech, of Chicago, Ill. The public schools of Grand Rapids completed the educational training of Robert G. Hill, which had been started in the country schools in the vicinity of Woodstock, and when he was still a youth he applied himself to the task of learning the trade of wood turner, which he thoroughly mastered. A skilled workman, industrious and energetic, he had little trouble in securing profitable and agreeable employment and continued to work at his chosen vocation until 1904. In the meantime, he had become interested in affairs of a public nature, and in the year mentioned was given a position in the office of the city treasurer. Amid his new surroundings he evidenced the possession of ability in the following of office routine, and when he left the city treasurer's department, in 1907, it was to go to the county clerk's office. There his ability and fidelity won him steady promotion, and in 1914 the voters gave voice to their approval of his public record by electing him to the office of county clerk. He has continued to discharge his duties in a competent and expeditious manner and has given his fellow-citizens no reason to regret the confidence which they placed in him in elevating him to his present office. Mr. Hill has also rendered splendid service to his country in a military way. Joining the National Guard, July 23, 1892, he subsequently served with credit during the Spanish-American war and was promoted from private to first sergeant; and in July, 1905, he was commissioned second lieutenant. He was commissioned captain of Company I, Thirty-second Michigan infantry, Jan. 18, 1911, and in that capacity took an active part in the recent troubles on the Mexican border. Captain Hill is a member of the Episcopal church and is fraternally affiliated with the Masons, the Shrine, the Elks and the Knights of Pythias. He was married Sept. 5, 1902, to Miss Violet Love, daughter of Thomas Love, of Grand Rapids, and they have one daughter, Barbara, who is still attending school.

Charles Finton Hilliker.—The growth and development of any community is largely dependent upon the exertions of those men who are engaged in investment banking and brokerage. Without their energy, vim and specialized knowledge no locality will move out of

Hosted by Google

the conventional rut; outside money will not be attracted to it, and home finances, missing the stimulating influence of legitimate action, will deteriorate. With the advent of enterprising, experienced men, well versed in the business of investments, comes a growth that is always noticeable and sometimes remarkable. Many years have passed since the first work in this direction was done at Grand Rapids, but the needs of this great city have made necessary constant and continued expansion, in which the investment banker plays a decidedly prominent part. One of those who is well known in this difficult field is Charles Finton Hilliker, of the firm of Kusterer, Hilliker & Perkins, who has already attained a success that many men would consider satisfying after many years of effort. Mr. Hilliker was born Dec. 17, 1884, at Grand Rapids, Mich., son of Dr. John B. and Harriet M. (Finton) Hilliker. His father, born on a farm in Paris township, Kent county, Michigan, decided upon a professional career as a youth and after some preparation entered Rush Medical College, in which he was duly graduated. He started practice at Corinth, Mich., but subsequently came to Grand Rapids, where he built up a large and lucrative clientele, rose to prominence in his profession and was eventually elected coroner, the duties of which he has performed for the past eighteen years. He belongs to the Kent County Medical Society and other organizations of his calling and is a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Malta lodge of Masonry and the Knights Templars. Politically, he is a Republican. Mrs. Hilliker, who also survives, is a native of Gaines township, Kent county. They have three children: Charles Finton, Blanche R., who is unmarried and resides with her parents, and Marion, wife of Clarence Harmer, of Tippecanoe, Ind. After attending the public schools of Grand Rapids, Charles F. Hilliker went to Chicago, where he became a clerk in the office of the E. H. Stafford Manufacturing Company, but remained only a short time, then going to the city ticket office of the Grand Trunk railway at Grand Rapids, where he continued three years. Following this, he was at Cincinnati, Ohio, for six months, where he was an employe of the Kimball Piano Company. On his return to Grand Rapids in 1907, Mr. Hilliker embarked in the brokerage business with Aldrich Blake, as Blake & Hilliker, this association continuing until about 1909, when the present firm of Kusterer, Hilliker & Perkins was formed. Incorporated for $100,000, this firm now consists of the following: A. E. Kusterer, president; C. F. Hilliker, vice-president; E. F. Perkins, secretary, and James C. Everett, treasurer. A general business in investment banking and brokerage is done and the firm is one of the best known in its field in the city. Mr. Hilliker is a Republican and belongs to the Association of Commerce and the Lodge, Chapter and Consistory of Masonry, being also a member of the Shrine. He likewise holds membership in the Peninsular, Highlands Golf, Grand Rapids Boat, Grand View Automobile and Grand Rapids Curling clubs. He was married Jan. 1, 1910, to Grace M., daughter of Hiram Brink, of Grand Rapids, and they have one daughter, Dorothy.

Charles E. Hogadone.—During a long period, Charles E. Hogadone, of Grand Rapids, has been accounted a leader of the state Democracy of Michigan and a citizen whose splendid public service entitles him to consideration as one of the helpful men of his city

Hosted by Google

and county. Ex-deputy labor commissioner of Michigan and present postmaster at Grand Rapids, in each of the numerous positions which he has held he has given the best of his fine abilities to the welfare and advancement of his locality and its people, and while he has always been engaged in large affairs persistently conveys the impression that his personality is larger than his performances. Charles E. Hogadone was born on a farm in Kent county, Michigan, Feb. 3, 1863, being a son of Edwin D. and Lucretia A. (Luther) Hogadone. His father, a native of Ontario, Canada, born in 1828, was a lad of twelve years when brought to Michigan, and here he was reared in an agricultural atmosphere and upon attaining his majority adopted the vocation of farming as his life work. He was an industrious workman, a skilled agriculturist and a man of good business judgment, and succeeded in the accumulation of a valuable property. Also, he won and held the respect of his fellow-citizens by reason of his integrity and personal probity, and when he died in 1909, his community lost one of its useful and representative citizens. He was a Democrat but not a politician. When still a young man Mr. Hogadone was married in Kent county to Miss Lucretia A. Luther, who was born in 1840, in New York, and who still survives him and makes her home at Grand Rapids. They became the parents of three children: Frank D., the eldest, who resides on and cultivates the old home farm; Charles E., and Mary E., who is the widow of Silas Barker and resides at Grand Rapids. Charles E. Hogadone secured his early education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, following which he secured a business college training. It was at first his intention to follow a professional career, and to this end he studied law for four years. While he never carried his studies to the point where he would have been able to gain admission to the bar, he secured enough legal training to assist him greatly in his subsequent career, as business man, politician and office holder. When he gave up the idea of following the law as a vocation, Mr. Hogadone embarked in business as the proprietor of a news and stationery store, but after a reasonably successful experience in this direction, disposed of his holdings and embarked in the real estate field, having become interested in the rapidly advancing land values of this region. In the meantime, he had been a factor in local politics and public affairs, and in the last Cleveland administration had been finance clerk at the Grand Rapids postoffice. He also served as supervisor of his ward for five years, but resigned from that office in 1894, subsequently being city superintendent of the poor during the administration of Mayor Sweet. In 1910 he disposed of his real estate business to go to Washington, D. C., as private secretary to Congressman Sweet, and remained at the national capital during that legislator's term. Upon his return to Grand Rapids he was appointed postmaster of the city, and has given the locality a splendid mail service, his term of office having been made notable by the installation of a number of improvements and the adoption of a better and more satisfactory mail schedule. Mr. Hogadone, in addition to acting as deputy labor commissioner of the state of Michigan, has been a leader in state Democratic politics for a number of years and has frequently filled important places on county and congressional committees. He is fraternally connected with the Knights of Pythias, and belongs to a number

Hosted by Google

of Grand Rapids clubs. In 1887 Mr. Hogadone was married to Miss Maria Walker, a Grand Rapids girl, who died in 1892, leaving two children, Clara E. and Erma L., the former of whom is Mrs. Edward Isaacson, of Rose Lake, Idaho, and the latter is Mrs. Robert Sturtevant, of Rockford, Ill. Mr. Hogadone was married again Jan. 1, 1906, when he was united with Miss Lotta C. Buck, a daughter of Samuel Buck, of the state of Vermont, and they have one child, Edwina B. Mrs. Hogadone is a member of the Baptist church and has numerous friends in social circles of the city.

David Denman Holcomb.—Many of the farmers who have won success in Kent county are those who have returned to the soil after having experiences in other lines of endeavor, and in this class is David Denman Holcomb, of section 26, Bowne township. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, but with a young man's desire to see more of the world than was offered to his view amid the surroundings of his home community, he spent several years in other localities, only to return to the scene of his birth and to honorable and well-deserved success. Mr. Holcomb was born on his father's farm in Bowne township, March 2, 1857, son of Martin A. and Philancia (Patchen) Holcomb. His father, born in Ravenna, Ohio, learned the trade of wagonmaker in his youth, and when the news of the discovery of gold in California was flashed around the world made the long and perilous journey across the plains to the gold fields, where he spent four years. Returning to the Middle West, he settled, in 1854, in Bowne township, where he secured 160 acres of land, on which there was a standing growth of heavy timber. He displayed his ambition and progressive spirit by chopping down sufficient logs, hauling them to Alaska, Mich., where he had them made into lumber, and then brought them back to his farm, where he built the first frame house in his neighborhood, and continued to be engaged in agricultural operations until the Civil war came on, when he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-sixth Michigan infantry. During three years he fought faithfully and valiantly in the uniform of the Union, but at Spottsylvania Court House was severely wounded and thus incapacitated for further duty, and was given his honorable discharge, having in the meantime been advanced to the rank of corporal. When he returned to pursuits of peace it was to face life as a cripple, but he was a man of indomitable courage and energy and did not allow his disability to discourage him. Instead, he pursued his farming work with added vim and determination and succeeded in doubling the size of his farm and in becoming one of the substantial men of his township, where he lived to be nearly ninety years of age and died in 1915. He was a Republican in politics and served as school director and as supervisor and highway commissioner of Bowne township, in addition to which he was active in the Grange during the first few years of its existence. Fraternally he was a Mason, belonging to the Blue lodge, Chapter and Knights Templars. Mrs. Holcomb died Jan. 1, 1880, having been the mother of four children: George B., who died as a lad; David Denman; Emily C., wife of W. K. Morgan, of Lowell township, and Candace C., who died as the wife of George Tucker, of St. Joseph county. The education of David D. Holcomb was secured in the district schools of Bowne township, following which he taught school in his home community for several terms and in Dakota territory for two years. Next

Hosted by Google

he was employed in mines in different parts of the country and also followed various pursuits in the West for two years, but finally returned to the home place, which he purchased from his father. Since that time he has been engaging in general farming operations with much success, and since 1880 has been a breeder of high-grade Jersey cattle. His success has been fairly and honorably won and he is now accounted one of his township's well-to-do farmers and a citizen who is actively and helpfully interested in the welfare of his locality and its people. Mr. Holcomb is a Republican. He belongs to the Masonic lodge and was formerly a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and captain of the local post of Sons of Veterans for several years. Mr. Holcomb was married Oct. 18, 1888, to Lydia J., daughter of Charles and Mary English, residents of Brookside, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb have had the following children: Cecil C., a professional nurse in the Aviation hospital at St. Paul; Olive M., wife of N. Flynn, of McCords, Mich.; Georgie B., who married Arthur Barnaby, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Jessie E., who is training to be a nurse at Butterworth hospital, Grand Rapids; Paul A., in the rifle range at Annapolis, Md.; Gaylord E., Francis E., John M. and Maurice E., who reside with their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Holcomb also have four grand children: Bernice, and Walter and Elwin Flynn, and Edward Barnaby.

Clay Harvey Hollister was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 7, 1863, son of Harvey J. and Martha (Clay) Hollister. He received his preliminary education in the schools of Grand Rapids and taking a literary course in Amherst College graduated in that institution with the class of 1886. After some preliminary business training he came into the Old National Bank, May 8, 1888, and there he has arisen through the different official places until he became president, the position he now occupies. Mr. Hollister was married Dec. 19, 1888, to Miss Justina H. Merrick, daughter of Timothy and Susan (Medbury) Merrick, of Holyoke, Mass. Of this union there have been born four children: Paul M. is in New York City; Martha C. is at home; George M. is a soldier in the French army, having been a student at Harvard College prior to the great world war, and Clay H., Jr., is at home. Mr. Hollister is a Republican in politics, but has filled no official positions, other than member of the school board, which he has been the incumbent of during the past eight years. He is a member of Park Congregational church and is at the present time chairman of its board of trustees. He is a member of the Peninsular, Kent, O-Wash-ta-nong and Colonial clubs, and of the Association of Commerce.

Frank M. Holmes.—While Frank M. Holmes did not start to publish the Sentinel-Leader at Sparta until 1917, he was no tyro in the newspaper field when he began his activities here, as for many years previous to that time he had been connected with journalistic work at other places and had much experience as a publisher. In this thriving little city he has also made a favorable impression upon the people, and his clean, progressive, well-edited sheet has been constantly growing in favor. Mr. Holmes is a Kent county man by nativity, having been born in Tyrone township, Sept. 5, 1868, son of Alvin N. and Julia (Dersheimer) Holmes, natives of Pennsylvania. His parents were farming people, who migrated to Michigan in the

Hosted by Google

year 1865, settling on a new farm in Tyrone township, where they developed a good and fertile property and through their industry and sterling traits of character won and retained the respect of their neighbors and acquaintances. Mr. Holmes, after a useful and energetic career, passed away several years ago, but his widow still survives and makes her home on the old farm. There were five children in the family: John A., deceased, and William O., Edith E., Andy V. and Frank M. The education of Frank M. Holmes was secured in the district schools of Kent county and the high school at Sparta, and it was at this place that he began his career, entering the drug business, in which he continued for a matter of thirteen years. He then turned his attention to journalism, his first experience being gained with the Grand Rapids Herald, at Grand Rapids, but he subsequently removed to Sault Ste. Marie, where he bought a part interest in the Sault Ste. Marie News. His experience there lasted over a number of years and was attended by a certain measure of success, but in 1917 Mr. Holmes disposed of his holdings and returned to Sparta, where he bought the Sentinel-Leader. This he is rapidly developing into a leader among the smaller papers of the northwestern part of the county. He has built up the circulation in a satisfying manner and the advertisers have come to recognize that his paper presents a good medium for the presentation of their wares. It is the aim of the paper to give its readers accurate information as to national and state news and to cover all local matter, with timely editorials and some feature matter. Connected with the newspaper plant is a job printing office, where Mr. Holmes is prepared to do all kinds of first-class work. He is also publisher of the Comstock Park News, which has a growing circulation at and around Comstock Park, Kent county. Mr. Holmes has had little time to devote to other things than his newspaper, and has therefore not connected himself with any fraternal orders, nor has he entered actively into public life or politics. With his family, he belongs to the Baptist church. Mr. Holmes was married in 1891 to Miss Aululah Norton, daughter of the Rev. E. W. and Laura A. (Compton) Norton, and of this union there have been born two children: Maurine, who is teacher of a kindergarten at Sparta and resides with her parents, and Carol B., who is engaged in assisting his father in publishing the Sentinel-Leader.

Frank L. Houghton.—One of the sound, substantial men and successful general farmers and stock-raisers of Kent county is found in the person of Frank L. Houghton, who is located on section 30, Lowell township. Mr. Houghton's interests have been devoted to farming throughout his career, and his entire life has been passed in Lowell township, being in every way representative of this community's best agricultural class. He was born on his father's farm in Lowell township, May 13, 1880, one of the five children of Samuel and Louise (La Monte) Houghton. His parents were natives of the State of New York, where Samuel Houghton was residing when the Civil war came on, and with youthful fervor and patriotism he enlisted in a New York volunteer infantry regiment and went to the front as a wearer of his country's uniform. He participated in a number of hard-fought and important engagements before being disabled by a serious injury received on the field of battle, but even then his usefulness to his country did not end, as until the close of the war he

Hosted by Google

served as a clerk in assisting to take care of the multitudinous office details entailed in the proper handling of a large army. At the close of the war Mr. Houghton came to Kent county and purchased eighty acres of uncleared land, which he subsequently traded for another tract of like acreage, in Lowell township. There he continued to be engaged in agricultural operations until he died, his death undoubtedly having been hastened by his army experiences. He passed away in 1884, but his widow survived him for many years. Mr. Houghton was a Republican politically, but found little time to engage in public affairs. His fraternal connection was with the Masons. He and his wife had the following children: Albert S., who is engaged in farming in Oklahoma; Louise, who died in infancy; Florence, who died at the age of twelve years; Walter C., a farmer in the State of Washington, and Frank L. Frank L. Houghton was but four years of age when his father died, but he was given good educational advantages, attending the district school in Lowell township and for one year being a pupil at the Central High School, Grand Rapids. When seventeen years of age he gave up his studies and began the operation of the home farm for his mother, and from that time to the present his life has been one of constant industry, rewarded by a full measure of success. His present farm of eighty acres, in section 30, is a part of the home place and was purchased from his mother by Mr. Houghton. Here he carries on general farming and stock-raising operations, in which he is thoroughly informed as to the latest methods and the most advanced ideas, and each year finds him installing new improvements to his already valuable equipment. Mr. Houghton has various interests in the community and is a stockholder in the Bank of McCord. He has contributed to the cause of education in Lowell township by serving as school director and has been active in the ranks of the Republican party, in which he wields some influence. With his family, he attends the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Houghton was married Oct. 9, 1900, to Bessie B., daughter of George and Roxie (Easterby) Lewis, formerly of Lowell township, but now of Cascade township. Of this union there have been born five children: Lloyd and Howard, who are attending high school, and George, Francis and Lewis.

Henry L. Houseman.—For more than sixty-five years the name of Houseman has been associated with some of the leading business interests of the city of Grand Rapids. The members of this family have displayed a remarkable aptitude for successful participation in commercial affairs and those bearing the name have accordingly risen high in reputation and the rewards that able management, industry and integrity bring to the favored few who are able to rise above the rut of mediocrity. In this connection it is not inappropriate to sketch in brief the career of Henry L. Houseman, president of the Houseman & Jones Clothing Company, and a man who has long been identified with the mercantile interests of the city and with its civic life. Mr. Houseman was born in Savannah, Ga., but when still a child was brought to Grand Rapids, and here his education was secured in the public schools. He was an industrious and ambitious youth, and as soon as his studies were completed entered the clothing business which had been established by his father and with which he has been identified ever since. The nucleus for the present business was established

Hosted by Google

in 1852, under the firm style of Julius & Joseph Houseman, the partners being cousins. The little establishment which was to grow into a large and important business house was located on the present site of the large building which the firm occupies, but sixty-six years ago it was unpretentious and modest in both size and appearance, and as its trade was small, so of necessity was its stock. The cousins were what is known as hustlers, however, and through good business talent gradually built up their enterprise year by year until it had assumed respectable proportions, continuing together in increasing prosperity until Julius Houseman was called by death. About the year 1867 Joseph Houseman took Moses May as a partner. In 1885 the firm became, by the admission of other members, Houseman, Donelly & Jones, a style which continued for ten years, the business being incorporated in 1895 for $100,000, as The Houseman & Jones Clothing Company, under which form it still operates. The first officials of the new company were: Joseph Houseman, president; Maurice Houseman, vice-president; E. W. Jones, secretary, and Henry L. Houseman, treasurer. The head of the concern, Joseph Houseman, died May 8, 1908, at which time Henry L. Houseman succeeded to the presidency; E. W. Jones became vice-president and treasurer, and Bertha Houseman was made secretary. These are the officers at the present time. The business is now one of the recognized leaders in its line in the city and has a large and up-to-date establishment at No. 140 and 142 Monroe avenue, where there is carried a complete line of men's, boys' and youths' clothing. The product of this company is known over an extensive territory for its exclusiveness and quality, while the firm has an enviable reputation in business circles as a house of known integrity and standing. Mr. Houseman has been identified with the concern since boyhood and the greater part of his interest has always been given to it. Nevertheless he has other holdings in various avenues of business life and is not merely a business drudge, as his connection with various social and fraternal organizations will prove. Among them are the Scottish Rite and Shrine Masons, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Highlands Country club and the Peninsular club. He also is a member of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the National Association of Retail Clothiers and director for the State of Michigan; and he is a member of the executive committee which consists of seven members. Mr. Houseman was married in 1892 to Miss Bertha Jesselson, daughter of Rabbi Jesselson, of Chicago, Ill., and they have three children, all residents of the city: Joseph, Felix, who is a lieutenant in the United States army, and Maurice. Mr. and Mrs. Houseman are members of the Jewish Temple Emanuel.

Solomon J. Hufford.—Undoubtedly experience is one of the greatest of assets when applied to business and the most successful enterprises at Grand Rapids, as elsewhere, are under the direct management of men who have learned the intricacies of trade and the problems of commercial life through practical experience in some vocation. They are able, through this experience, to evenly weigh probabilities, to foresee difficulties and to plan carefully and economically for every possible future contingency. In Solomon J. Hufford, one of Grand Rapids' representative citizens, the C. W. Mills Paper Company has such a manager, Mr. Hufford being also the secretary

Hosted by Google

of the company. He was born in Seneca county, Ohio, April 5, 1862. His father, Michael W. Hufford, brought his family to Grand Rapids in 1870. In 1877 he embarked in the meat business and through thrift and enterprise developed a large and profitable trade and continued active until 1889, when he retired from business life entirely and subsequently died in this city. Solomon J. Hufford has been a resident of Grand Rapids since his eighth year. Here he secured his education, went into business, established his home and has become thoroughly and loyally identified with the best interests of the city and section. In 1889 he started in business, operating a retail meat market at 148 (old) and 610 (new) Bridge street, west, until 1908. In that year he became actively interested in the C. W. Mills Paper Company, which is one of the prospering concerns of Grand Rapids. The C. W. Mills Paper Company was established in 1903 and incorporated for $10,000, which capital has been increased to $50,000. The first officials of the company were as follows: Clark W. Mills, president; Solomon J. Hufford, vice-president; Walter C. Hedden, treasurer; Hiram R. Gezon, second vice-president; George T. Tradewell, secretary. The present officials are: H. R. Gezon, president; Solomon J. Hufford, secretary and manager; J. H. Temple, treasurer. The first business location was on Pearl street, near Campau. One year later removal was made to No. 107 Campau street and the business was carried on there until further expansion became necessary, and Aug. 4, 1910, the company took possession of their substantial new building at Nos. 204-206 Ellsworth street, where they occupy five floors. The company gives employment to fifteen people in the plant and has seven salesmen, the trade territory covering Western Michigan. The commodities handled by the company include school supplies, wrapping paper and paper bags, cordage, stationery, notions, pipes and baseball goods. Amply financed, well officered and ably managed, this is one of the sound business houses of Grand Rapids. Mr. Hufford belongs to the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. In political sentiment he is a Republican. As a public official he has served on the Board of Public Works and on the Sinking Fund Commission. He is identified fraternally with the Elks, Odd Fellows and Masons, in the last named organization belonging to Valley City Blue lodge, the Consistory, and he is also a Shriner. He belongs also to the Arbeiter Society. He was married Nov. 20, 1883, to Miss Minnie Augusta Shindler, daughter of Julius Shindler, of Grand Rapids.

Martin C. Huggett was born at Bellevue, Mich., June 13, 1876, son of George and Mary E. (Brackett) Huggett. He was educated in the Charlotte High School and the University of Michigan, in the literary department of which latter institution he graduated with the class of 1899. He then took up the study of law, entered Columbia College at Washington, D. C., and graduated in 1901. He served as private secretary of Hon. William Alden Smith for ten years, the duties of which kept him in the city of Washington the greater part of that time. In 1910 he returned to Grand Rapids and accepted the position of secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and he served in that capacity three years. On Dec. 1, 1913, he became vice-president of the City Trust & Savings Bank and has since been associated with that institution, at the present time being its cashier. Mr. Huggett is a member of the York lodge of Masons, the Association of Com-

Hosted by Google

merce, and the Peninsular, O-Wash-ta-nong, and Kent Country clubs. The City Trust & Savings Bank, of which Mr. Huggett is cashier, was organized Jan. 2, 1905, with the following board of directors: W. C. Winchester, Francis Letellier, D. M. Amberg, J. J. Tucker, T. S. White, J. F. Baars, Constantine Morton, P. C. Fuller, S. A. Morman, and J. B. Lacey. In 1906 Charles Trankla and A. W. Hampe were added to the board of directors, and the officers were as follows: J. R. Wylie, president; Lester J. Ringe and Thomas M. Peck, vice-presidents; Hugh Blair, cashier, and the capital stock was $100,000. In 1910 W. C. Winchester succeeded Thomas M. Peck as vice-president, Frank Welton succeeded Hugh Blair as cashier; Malan Smith became assistant cashier, and the capital stock was increased to $200,000. In January, 1911, the bank was consolidated with the Grand Rapids National City Bank, and in 1915, the following corps of officers was chosen: D. E. Waters, chairman of the board; Charles H. Bender, president; W. C. Winchester and M. C. Huggett, vice-presidents; Ira B. Dalrymple, cashier, and F. H. Babcock, J. D. Farr, and H. C. Cutter, assistants to the cashier.

John A. Hulswit.—It is claimed by many that technical training is not necessary for the attainment of success, these claims being based upon the fact that so many of the successful men of the country have been essentially self-taught and trained largely in the school of experience. It is true that men who have obtained their education through their own efforts and while gaining their living are very apt to appreciate its worth, and make oftentimes better use of the knowledge thus obtained that do those to whom are open the doors of universities. Grand Rapids is the home of many prosperous institutions which owe their present condition to the sagacity, far-reaching policies and intimate knowledge of conditions of men to whom an academic training was not given, but who have been graduated from the higher school of practical acquaintance with the matter at hand. One of these men who is worthy of much more than passing mention is John A. Hulswit, who as a lad started to work for the Grand Rapids Gas Light Company as a collector, and who for the past eight years has been its treasurer. Mr. Hulswit is a product of Grand Rapids, having been born in this city Feb. 13, 1878. He is a son of Frank M. Hulswit, who came to Grand Rapids in 1874 and who still resides here at the age of eighty-four years. John A. Hulswit attended the public schools of Grand Rapids, and when he graduated from the high school, at the age of seventeen years, immediately sought a position in which he might expend his youthful energy. He soon secured employment as a collector with the Grand Rapids Gas Light Company, and worked faithfully and energetically in that capacity until he was promoted to the position of teller. Subsequently, he was made order clerk, later became cashier, and in turn general bookkeeper, and finally, in 1910, was made treasurer of the company. The Grand Rapids Gas Light Company was given its first franchise Feb. 2, 1857, and was incorporated Dec. 20 of the preceding year. At that time Francis D. Gilbert was its president, while its board of directors consisted of the following: Henry Martin, William T. Powers, Charles Shepard and Ransom E. Wood. The second incorporation occurred Dec. 20, 1886, when its capital stock was placed at $400,000, and in 1890 it was reorganized as the Grand Rapids Gas

Hosted by Google

Company and took over the property of the Grand Rapids Gas Light Company. In 1895 the Grand Rapids Gas Light Company was incorporated for $1,000,000, and its capital is now $2,400,000, its officers being Emerson McMillin, of New York City, president; J. T. Young, first vice-president; Hanson P. Lathrop, second vice-president; Glenn R. Chamberlain, secretary, and John A. Hulswit, treasurer. When it started business the company had thirty-eight consumers, while at the present time it has 230 miles of mains and 34,000 meters in use, while the price of its product has decreased from $4 per 1,000 feet to 80 cents for the same amount. Mr. Hulswit occupies an important position in the life of the city and it would seem that much has been given him, yet he has deservedly earned the distinction and position that are his. He has never been known to shirk a duty or to be otherwise than thoughtful and considerate of those under his supervision, and perhaps this is one reason why he has been able to command such excellent service and therefore to be of such value to his company. Looking back over his career, it must be a source of pleasure to him to reflect that his advancement has been gained through merit and knowledge and not by putting down another or wrecking the work of a competitor. Mr. Hulswit is a member of the Young Men's Christian Association and of the Second Reformed church, of which latter he was trustee for several years. He was married Aug. 12, 1908, to Miss Bessie, daughter of William and Fannie (Doak) Garrick, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of three children: John S., who is seven years old; Jane Elizabeth, five years of age, and Frances Charlotte, eighteen months old.

Earl Hunter.—Among the public officials of Kent county whose abilities in a business way have aided them in the proper discharge of their duties and the improvement of the departments with which they are connected, is Earl Hunter, who, since December, 1914, has occupied the office of postmaster at Lowell. Mr. Hunter is a business man who has had experience in several fields of activity and in various localities and is now proprietor of a flourishing coal business; and the success which has rewarded his efforts in commercial life has been duplicated in his experience as a public servant. He is a product of the agricultural country of Ionia county, Mich., where he was born on a farm, in Kenne township, Aug. 11, 1873, his parents being DeWitt C. and Jennie (Cheyne) Hunter, natives of Michigan and farming people all their lives in Ionia county, where they still reside. The only child of his parents, Earl Hunter received his education in the country schools and the Lowell High School, which he attended for three years, and his business experience was commenced as a clerk in the Winegar shoe store, at Lowell. After six years of connection with that establishment he transferred his attention to the lumber business. Later, he went on the road with J. B. Lewis & Company, of Boston, shoes being his line, and he spent the next three years in traveling through Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Returning then to Lowell, about 1905 he established himself in commercial circles as proprietor of a coal business, and this he has continued to conduct with constantly increasing success to the present time. Mr. Hunter is a man of sterling business ability, good judgment and sound, practical ideas, and has always maintained a profound regard for high business ethics. As a result his reputation in business circles is an

Hosted by Google

excellent one and he has the unreserved confidence of his associates and all with whom he has come into contact in a business way. He has long been active in Democratic politics, in which he is a leader in his community, and he has served as village treasurer two years. In December, 1914, he was appointed by President Wilson as postmaster at Lowell, for a four-year term, and during the period of his incumbency has steadfastly endeavored to improve the service. On more than one occasion the citizens of this community have expressed their appreciation of his efforts and his public record has thus added to the reputation which he gained in business affairs. Mr. Hunter belongs to Lowell Lodge No. 90 and Hooker Chapter No. 73 of the Masonic order. With his family, he holds membership in the Congregational church. Mr. Hunter was married Dec. 29, 1908, to Ruby, daughter of Samuel and Adeline Moore, natives of Listowel, Canada, who followed farming for many years there until their retirement. Mr. Moore died in 1911, but Mrs. Moore still survives and makes her home with her son Elmer, their only other child besides Mrs. Hunter. Elmer Moore, who is superintendent of the Cary Roofing Company, of Detroit, Mich., married May Swaffield, who died in December, 1916. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter are the parents of two children: Helen M., born Aug. 26, 1911, and Jennie Maxine, born Oct. 27, 1914.

Edwin S. Hunter.—It has been the destiny of Edwin S. Hunter to have passed his life amid rural surroundings and to have found pleasure and profit, contentment and prosperity, in the peaceful vocation of the agriculturist. His industrious and well-directed labors have resulted in the acquirement of a valuable property in Nelson township, and his integrity in all the transactions of life have given him standing and many friendships in the community in which his labors have been centered. Edwin S. Hunter is a native of Kent county, having been born on a farm in Spencer township, Aug. 13, 1869. John Hunter, his father, was born in Canada, where he followed farming as a young man, but eventually moved to Kent county and was one of the first settlers of Spencer township, locating here at a time when the pioneers were compelled to clear their land of timber before they could plant their crops. The elder Hunter has passed his entire life in tilling the soil, but is at present living in somewhat retirement, in Nelson township, having transferred the heavy labor over to younger shoulders. He married Mary Parks, daughter of B. G. Parks, of Spencer township, and of this union there were born two children: Edwin S., and Mrs. Eva Craig, living in Spencer township, where her husband is now farming. Edwin S. Hunter has always been identified with farming. He was born on a farm, was reared in an agricultural community, and his education came from the district schools in the heart of a farming country. His training was all along the same line, so that it was but natural that he adopt the vocation of the husbandman when he reached years of maturity. Since starting upon his independent career he has achieved a desirable success from his labors, and his prosperity has been won in such an honorable manner that he has gained and retained the respect and friendship of his neighbors. Mr. Hunter married Miss Millie Remington and they are the parents of the following five children: Howard, who married Nancy Walls and has four children—

Hosted by Google

Leslie, Beulah, Florian and Morris; Iva, who married Fred Mesner, of Edmore, Mich., and has three children—Orville, Merrill and Aletha M.; Lela, wife of Emery Rounds, of Sparta, has one child, Elsworth; and Leon and Lewis are still attending school. Mr. Hunter has proved himself a good and helpful citizen and is at present a member of the school board in Nelson township. He is independent in his political views. On April 7, 1918, he bought the Ream farm, one mile south and one-fourth mile east of Cedar Springs, the same containing forty acres.

Vernor L. Hunter, who is successfully engaged in farming in Lowell township, is a worthy representative of the younger agricultural element of Kent county. To a very considerable extent it is this element in any community, especially outside of the large cities, which infuses spirit and zest into the activities of the place. It is this element, whose entrance upon the arena of active life dates not farther back than three decades, which monopolizes a large share of the vigor, zeal and pushing energy which keeps the nerves of the agricultural world, ramifying through all the country districts, strung to the full tension of nervous endeavor. Mr. Hunter was born Oct. 4, 1894, in Lowell township, Kent county, where the family has been represented since 1856. His father, Willard M. Hunter, was also born in this township, Feb. 16, 1865, son of Mathew and May (Carman) Hunter, the former a native of England and the latter of Canada. Mathew Hunter came to Lowell township in 1856 and purchased 104 acres of uncleared land, which he brought to a high state of cultivation and upon which he made all the improvements, and here rounded out a long, honorable and useful life. He was a Republican and an influential man in his community, serving for some years as a justice of the peace, was fraternally connected with the Masons, and worshipped at the Baptist church. He and his wife were the parents of five children: Robert C., a resident of Portland, Ore.; John E., of Greenville, Ohio; Alice, wife of Charles Gibson; Willard M., and Ulysses, an agriculturist of Bowne township. Willard M. Hunter was educated in the public schools of Lowell township, and throughout his entire career has been engaged in farming and stock-raising operations here. He has risen to a place of prominence as farmer, business man and citizen, and in the esteem of those among whom he has spent so many years. He was married Nov. 16, 1887, to Edna Calhoun, also of Lowell township, and they became the parents of three children: Arthur W., a farmer at Marion, Mich.; Ida, wife of Floyd Steed, of Lowell, and Vernor L. Vernor L. Hunter attended the district schools in the country and the public school at McLaughlin for two years, following which he returned to Lowell township and for one year rented a tract of land from his father, in partnership with his brother-in-law. Since then he has been engaged in renting on his own account, and at the present time is carrying on general farming and stock-raising, and in the latter department has made a particularly satisfying success in handling Jersey cattle. He is an exceptionally enterprising young man and thoroughly competent in business transactions, and, although his advent in agricultural life of Lowell township is of comparatively recent date, what he has already accomplished presages a successful future. He is a Republican and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal

Hosted by Google

church. Mr. Hunter was married Dec. 27, 1913, to Stella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelley, of Caledonia, the former deceased and the latter a resident of Grand Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter have three children: Phyllis Mae, Arthur Willard, and Edna Louise.

Joseph M. Hutchinson.—While he has been a resident of Lowell only since 1914, Joseph M. Hutchinson has already strongly impressed the virile, energetic personality upon the people of this thriving community, where he is editor of the Lowell Journal. Two vocations, educational and journalistic work, have occupied Mr. Hutchinson's energies during a long and uniformly successful career, and the experiences which he has gained in various parts of the country while following these professions have been of a nature decidedly interesting and at the same time helpful to him in his present capacity. Out of the adventures that have gone to make up a busy life he has been able to extract a knowledge of human nature and a keen comprehension of the responsibilities of citizenship, and with these and other qualifications he has proven a valuable asset to his adopted city. Mr. Hutchinson was born on a farm in Shelby county, Illinois, Oct. 2, 1860, son of Alfred and Mary (McNichols) Hutchinson, natives of New Jersey, but they were married in Illinois. They removed shortly after their union to Shelby county, where both passed away after years spent in the pursuits of the soil. Joseph M. Hutchinson received his early education in the schools of his native locality. His parents were Quakers, but he was sent for further training to Pennington, N. J., where for three years he attended the Methodist Episcopal Seminary. Returning to Illinois, in 1883, he began his career as a school teacher, but subsequently supplemented his former training by a course at the Illinois State Normal University. Duly graduated in that institution, he shortly thereafter became superintendent of schools at Wyoming, Ill., later at Mackinaw, Ill., then at Fort Thomas, Ky., where he spent four years, and then at Covington, Ky., where he remained during a like period. During this time Mr. Hutchinson, a man of marked literary tastes and much ability, had been interested in newspaper work and had contributed to various journals in the communities in which his labors had been centered. It was at Harrisburg, Ill., however, that he really started his connection with journalism, and at that point for three years he was editor of the Harrisburg Chronicle. Subsequently he went to Plainwell, Mich., for one and one-half years, in the same kind of work, and at the end of that time came to Lowell, where, in April, 1914, he purchased the Lowell Journal, of which he has since been the editor and publisher. Since its founding, July 13, 1865, by Webster Morris, this newspaper has taken an active part in the affairs of Lowell, and under Mr. Hutchinson's energetic and capable management has broadened the scope of its influence and become a decided factor in forming public opinion. Mr. Hutchinson is a Republican and a stanch supporter of his party, but endeavors to give his readers a clear, unbiased view of all public questions. He is conducting a clean, reliable paper, and is receiving gratifying support from the public. Fraternally, Mr. Hutchinson is a Royal Arch Mason. He was married Aug. 3, 1899, to Edith, daughter of Mabry and Mary Van Reed, both parents now being deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Hutchinson have no children.

Hosted by Google

Samuel C. Ingraham.—Among the representatives of the farming industry in Kent county who have been born here and have passed their entire lives within its borders, one who has made more than ordinary success through his own efforts, who has been a believer in modern progress and development and who has proved himself a good and public-spirited citizen, is Samuel C. Ingraham, whose farm and home are located in section 3, Solon township. Mr. Ingraham was born on a farm in Spencer township, Kent county, Michigan, Sept. 13, 1860, son of Aaron Ingraham. Aaron Ingraham was a native of New York and followed farming in the Empire State until emigrating to Michigan, some time during the '50s. Here he secured a tract of wild land and began his farming ventures, clearing his property and putting it gradually under cultivation, and he removed the timber. His progress in this direction was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, and when the country was threatened with secession Aaron Ingraham offered his services to his country and was accepted. The rigors of army life, however, did what the hardships of pioneer farming had failed to do; they broke down his health and while he was in the army, about one and one-half years, he was incapacitated a great deal of the time and did not engage in any important battles, and was eventually honorably discharged because of disability. When he had recovered he returned to Spencer township and resumed his farming activities, but about the year 1870 removed to Maple Valley township and there continued his agricultural operations until his death. He was a man of progressive and industrious spirit and had the respect and confidence of his neighbors throughout the community. Mr. Ingraham married Miss Marguerite Clough, of New York, daughter of Samuel and Susanna Clough. Mr. Clough was a cooper by trade and conducted a business for many years at Greenville, N. Y., where his death occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Ingraham became the parents of eleven children, of whom six grew to man and womanhood: David G. resides at Grand Rapids and is engaged in factory work; the others are Susanna, Marcus, Charles E., who died Dec. 12, 1917; Samuel C. and Asenath. Samuel C. Ingraham was educated in the Coral school in Maple Valley township and there grew up on the home farm, receiving his training for the vocation which he had decided to follow in life—that of farming. When he reached his majority he did not leave the parental roof, but remained with his father and continued to so do until he was twenty-six years old, at which time he was married and established a home of his own. Securing land in section 3, Solon township, he settled down to the serious business of developing a farm, and so well has he succeeded in his efforts that today he is accounted one of the substantial men of his section of the county. He has good buildings, commodious and architecturally pleasing; his stock is well fed, sleek and contented, and his equipment is of recent manufacture, and the general atmosphere of the property speaks of prosperity, evidencing Mr. Ingraham's general and business ability. In 1886 Mr. Ingraham was married to Miss Allie McLaughlin, of New York, where she was born and reared. For some years prior to her marriage Mrs. Ingraham taught school in Canada, in Livingston and Montcalm counties, Michigan, and in Kent county, becoming well and favorably known as an educator. They have no children. Mr. Ingraham

Hosted by Google

is unreservedly a Republican, but takes only a voter's interest in politics and has neither held nor sought position of a public character. With Mrs. Ingraham, he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church.

Jacob F. Ipe.—Among the representatives of the agricultural industry who have been witnesses of and participants in the development of Solon township from a territory covered with a heavy timber growth into a fertile agricultural community, one who is well known is Jacob F. Ipe, who is now carrying on operations on the old homestead place. It has been Mr. Ipe's fortune to have made a success of his labors in the vocation of farming, but his entire career has not been devoted thereto, as he has had experience also in other fields. However, the work of the husbandman has appealed most strongly to him, and in it he has found contentment and prosperity. Jacob F. Ipe is a native of Youngstown, Ohio, born April 8, 1854, son of Solomon and Matilda (Barger) Ipe, natives of the same locality, the father having been born at Youngstown in 1828. Solomon Ipe was a man of energy and industry who found the limits of his own city too confining, and who struck out for himself in the newly opened country of Michigan, coming in the latter '50s to Kent county and settling in Solon township. This community at that time was covered with a heavy growth of timber and Mr. Ipe devoted himself to the lumber business, in which he found substantial profit, and when the timber interests began to grow slack turned his attention to farming, in which he also made a success. He is still well remembered by many of the older residents. He and his wife were the parents of six children—two of whom died in infancy; Jacob F., of this notice, who is the oldest living; Sarah, deceased; Simon, of whom detailed mention is made on another page of this work, and Bina. Jacob F. Ipe received his education in the district schools of Solon township, following which he secured his introduction into business methods in the milling line. He continued to devote his energies thereto until 1907, when he became a hotel proprietor at Iron River, Mich. Mr. Ipe was a genial host and a successful boniface until 1916, when he disposed of his interests in a hotel way and took up farming on a part of the old homestead. His Solon township farm of eighty acres is a fertile and well-improved property which is yielding him good profits under his well-directed management. As a citizen he has shown himself appreciative of the needs of his community and has not been backward in supporting good movements. He has never aspired to public office and does not allow himself to be governed by party lines in casting his ballot, preferring to use his own judgment as to the worth of candidates and policies. Therefore he may be termed an independent voter. Mr. Ipe married Marcia Moses, and of this union there was born a daughter, Ethel, wife of Charles Oberg, a member of the city fire department of Iron River. Mr. and Mrs. Oberg have one son, Kenneth, at home.

Simon Ipe.—The list of residents of Solon township whose memories extend back to the days when this part of Kent county was still in its primeval state, when heavy forests covered what are now fertile farms and thriving towns and cities, when there were few roads save those of the Indian trails, and when there were no railroads at all, includes Simon Ipe, who now lives in the Cedar Springs community. Mr. Ipe was a lad of nine years when he accompanied his

Hosted by Google

parents here, in 1867, having been born at Youngstown, Ohio, Oct. 31, 1858. While he has not been a continuous resident here since that time, his business endeavors having carried him to other points in this and adjoining states, he has seen and participated in much of the work that has brought about such great changes during the past half a century. Mr. Ipe's parents were Solomon and Matilda (Barger) Ipe, also natives of Youngstown, where the father was born in 1828. On coming to Kent county the father engaged in the lumber business, but later turned his attention to farming, and in both fields worked out a successful career, being aided by natural industry and inherent business ability. There were six children in the family—two who died in infancy; Jacob F., of Solon township, an agriculturist, of whom mention will be found elsewhere in this work; Sarah, Simon, of this notice, and Bina. Simon Ipe secured his early education in Youngstown, and when he came to Kent county attended the primitive school then conducted in his locality in Solon township. His boyhood home was located in the midst of a heavy growth of timber, and much of his youth was passed in assisting his father and other early settlers in clearing off the trees and making the ground ready for cultivation. When the G. R. & I. railroad came through, he helped to provide wood for fuel in running the donkey engine which was used in the work of construction, and he witnessed the gradual growth of Cedar Springs from a little settlement of a few log houses into a hamlet, then into an appreciable community and finally into a thriving and prosperous village. Mr. Ipe has traveled much and has been a keen observer of things going on about him. During his active years he was engaged in the milling business, and his varied and important interests took him to many places outside of the state. Much of his time at present is given over to retrospect, as he had the misfortune to meet with an accident which prevents him from doing active work and confines him to his home. However, his mind is still alert and he is possessed of the happy faculty of retaining his cheerfulness, which, combined with a natural ability for narrative and a wonderful memory, makes him an interesting companion and an instructive conversationalist. He has not been a seeker for public position, but has shared with other public-spirited men the responsibilities attending useful citizenship. Politically, Mr. Ipe supports Republican principles and candidates.

Isaac T. Jacobs.—Among the practical representatives of modern farming methods in Kent county, one who has resided here for a long period is Isaac T. Jacobs, owner of a handsome and productive tract of land lying in Nelson township. In the working out of his career Mr. Jacobs has been an exponent of the fact that practicality and modernity form, when associated, the most reliable and satisfactory combination for the achieving of results, and the success which he has himself attained seems to be evidence that his system is a worthy one. Like a number of other farmers of Kent county, Mr. Jacobs claims the Empire State as the place of his nativity, having been born on a farm in Westchester county, in the southeastern corner of New York. His father, Thorn S. Jacobs, was also born in that state, where the family had lived for many years, and there his entire career was passed in the pursuits of farming and stock-raising. He was a man of moderate means, but of industry and perseverance, and had

Hosted by Google

a reputation for sterling citizenship, integrity in his business dealings and probity in his private life. He lived to reach an advanced age, sixty-six years, as did also Mrs. Jacobs, who bore the maiden name of Ann Eliza Gillett, and was a daughter of Harry Gillett, who was also a lifelong farmer in New York. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs were the parents of three children—Henry, Frances Ophelia, and Isaac T. Isaac T. Jacobs was brought up as a farmer's son and as a youth his mind was trained to thoughts of industry, and his experiences were calculated to instill in him a spirit of self-reliance and an appreciation of the value of honorable labor. In the meantime his education was acquired in the public schools, after leaving which he gave his attention unreservedly to farming, which has been practically his only vocation throughout life. When still a young man he decided that the West held out better opportunities for a young man of ambition and industry, and he accordingly came to Michigan, locating at Kalamazoo in 1870, and it was not until 1906 that he purchased the farm of eighty acres which he now owns and operates, and which is located in Nelson township, three miles from the village of Sand Lake. While Mr. Jacobs has never given up the old, worthy and time-tried methods where they still prove practical, he has not been backward in adopting innovations, and new methods are always sure of a fair investigation at his hands. He has surrounded himself with modern machinery of a labor-saving character and has been careful in his selection of equipment, while his set of buildings are attractively and substantially built and conveniently placed. The farm is characterized by neatness and everything is in good repair, reflecting the thrifty nature of the owner. Mr. Jacobs has been primarily an agriculturist and has not been interested in other ventures, but has wisely invested his capital in real estate. He has not cared for public life, and, while a supporter of good movements, has never aspired to public office. Politically a stanch Republican, he gives his support to his party's candidates and has worked in behalf of friends at election times, of whom he has many in the community. Mr. Jacobs was married in 1873 to Etta Taylor, of New York state. She died Sept. 2, 1915, aged sixty-nine years. They had four children: William, a farmer in Nelson township; Hattie married Joseph Hudson and lives near Morley; Walter C., mentioned on a succeeding page, and Fannie married Marion Miller and lives at Ensley, Mich.

Walter C. Jacobs.—The agricultural element is very strong all through Kent county and for the greater part is made up of men of comprehensive knowledge of farming principles and appreciation of modern methods. Many of this class are to be found in the northern part of the county and one of them is Walter C. Jacobs, whose farm is located in Nelson township. He has been a resident of this community for a number of years and is adjudged one of the substantial men of his township. Mr. Jacobs was born in Westchester county, New York, son of Isaac T. Jacobs, who is given extended mention on a preceding page. Walter C. Jacobs received his educational training in the schools of Westchester county and accompanied his father to Kent county as a youth. When he was ready to enter upon his own career he adopted the family vocation of farming as his work, and to this industry he has ever since given his undivided attention. He is thoroughly versed in all departments of agriculture.

Hosted by Google

As a business man he has also proven capable, always securing a good price for his produce, but is not one to take an unfair advantage, and as a result his business standing is high. Like his father, he is a Republican in politics but not a seeker for public preferment, and also like the elder man he is a supporter of public-spirited movements launched in his community—civic, educational and charitable. Mr. Jacobs was united in marriage May 2, 1912, with Rose A., daughter of Peter Molonzo, a native of Canada. Mr. Molonzo married Rosina Hiller, of New York state. He went to Detroit at the age of ten years and later to Pontiac, Mich., where he grew to manhood. He is now living in Tuscola county, Michigan, engaged in farming. His wife died in 1906. They had seven children—Frank E., Edith R., James H., Nancy, Rose A., May V., and Myrtle L.

Charles E. Jakeway.—The stock and grain interests of Kent county had a successful and always honorable representative in the late Charles E. Jakeway, whose accidental death, at Lowell, a few years ago, caused universal sorrow in the community. For years he had been a well-known figure in business circles of this city and at Moseley Station and his well-won and self-acquired success had caused him to be admired and respected by his associates, while his good citizenship had made him a decidedly useful and valued citizen. He was a New Yorker by nativity, born May 14, 1860, son of James and Catherine (Wessels) Jakeway. His parents came from the Empire State in 1863 and settled in Kent county, where they took up land, and during the remainder of their lives followed agricultural pursuits, in which they finally attained a competence. There were thirteen children in the family, and as Charles E. was the third in order of birth and the family finances were in modest circumstances, he was early expected to contribute his share to the income. His education was not, therefore, of a very elaborate character, being confined to attendance in the district schools until he was thirteen years old, at which tender age he began doing a man's share in the fields with his father and brothers. The lack of early advantages did not seem to handicap him in later life, perhaps because he added to his boyhood schooling by close observation and much reading during his later years, and the hard training which he secured in his youth on the home farm no doubt gave him the self-reliance and initiative which assisted him in his later dealings with competitors in the business world. He was ambitious and industrious as a young man and worked energetically toward the end that he became a proprietor of property of his own, and this aim was accomplished when he secured, through purchase, 100 acres of Kent county land. This he farmed with much success until 1897, when he turned his attention to the live stock and grain business, a field in which he rose rapidly to prosperity. His activities were centered at Moseley, but his operations extended over a wide territory and he became known as one of the steadily progressing men in his line of endeavor, but his career was suddenly cut short by his tragic death while on a business trip to Lowell, when he, with Charles E. Francisco, was struck by a train at the Grand Trunk railway crossing, both men being instantly killed. Aside from his business, Mr. Jakeway had few interests except his home. However, he did not neglect the duties of citizenship, helping all progressive movements and serving for a time as highway commis-

Hosted by Google

sioner. His views on public questions made him a Democrat. Mr. Jakeway was married Aug. 7, 1884, to Ella, daughter of Charles E. and Cora C (Barto) Francisco, of New York state, pioneers of Kent county, both of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Jakeway survives her husband and resides at Lowell, where she is widely known as a lady of many accomplishments. Two children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jakeway: Blanche, born July 9, 1888, married Clyde J. Francisco and has two children—George Henry and Charles Lee; and Gladys married John Kropf and she and her husband are living with Mrs. Jakeway.

C. Kent Jakeway.—In the agricultural community of Grattan township there are to be found a number of men who have taken up farming after years spent in other lines of endeavor. In this class, one who is well known is C. Kent Jakeway, formerly an educator, subsequently a business man, and now an energetic, progressive and successful farmer and one of the active citizens of his community in public affairs. Mr. Jakeway has resided in this locality all of his life. He was born on a farm in Grattan township, Kent county, Michigan, Jan. 25, 1879, son of John H. and Mary A. (Malone) Jakeway. His father, a native of New York state, was taken to Ohio by his parents when a child, and about the year 1855 came with them to Kent county. Here he grew to manhood and when the Civil war came on enlisted in the Union army, but at that time was not of age and his father secured his release and took him back home. When he embarked in farming on his own account it was on a forty-acre tract of green land, secured from the government, and to this he added in later years, purchasing some 120 acres and bringing his entire property to a high state of cultivation. He was a Democrat in politics and took much interest in public affairs, although he never desired office on his own account. Mr. Jakeway and his wife were the parents of five children: Lee, a resident of Grattan township; C. Kent, of this notice; Laura, wife of John Corrigan, of Grattan township; John, Jr., and Lillian, wife of James Downs. C. Kent Jakeway received his education in the district schools of his native locality and the graded schools of Grattan, and, while he had been reared as a farmer, chose the educator's profession when he embarked upon his independent career. For some twenty years he continued as an instructor of the young, becoming one of the best-known and most popular educators of this part of the county, and during eight years of this time was principal of the Grattan High School. He also interested himself in other matters, finding time to assist in the building of the railroad from Lowell to Belding, and for a time was also proprietor of a meat market at Lakeview. Eventually he turned his attention to farming, which now forms his chief interest and source of income. He is the owner of a splendidly cultivated and productive farm in Grattan township, consisting of 100 acres, on which he carries on general operations, having scored a decided success through his industry and modern methods of agriculture. In 1912 he further improved his property by the erection of a handsome barn, and 1915 was the year which saw the building of his present home, a comfortable and commodious one. Mr. Jakeway is also president of the Moseley Creamery Association and is well known in business circles as a man of integrity and fidelity to his engagements. He is active in politics,

Hosted by Google

being known as one of the influential Democrats of this section, has been supervisor of his township for the past seven years, and is a member of the county board of school examiners. His religious faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Jakeway was married in October, 1903, to Miss Olive Roach, and three children have been born of their union—Gerald, Vivian and Lillian.

Claude N. Jaqua.—One of the important concerns of Grand Rapids, engaged in the business of printing and engraving, is the Cargill Company. In the personnel and directorship of this enterprise are to be found some of the prominent men of the Furniture City, whose long connection with the trade has made their names widely known. In this class is Claude N. Jaqua, who has been connected with the Cargill Company for nearly seventeen years, during which time he has risen from the position of bookkeeper to that of secretary and treasurer. Mr. Jaqua was born July 11, 1877, on a farm in Montcalm county, Michigan, son of Emery D. and Freelove (Pierson) Jaqua. On the maternal side he is descended from one of the oldest families of that county, where his grandfather, Orson A. Pierson, settled as a pioneer at such an early date that he had to cut his way through the woods in order to get north from Grand Rapids. Mr. Pierson subsequently became one of the substantial and influential men of his community, and the town of Pierson was named in his honor. Emery D. Jaqua has followed farming all of his life in Montcalm county and is accounted one of the reliable and dependable agriculturists of his community and a substantial, public-spirited citizen. He and his wife had four children—Claude N., Ernest L., Chester A. and Emery D., Jr. Claude N. Jaqua was reared on his father's farm in Montcalm county and was given a good education in the public schools at Pierson and at Howard City. When he started upon his career it was as a school teacher in the rural districts, but after three years of educational work he determined upon a change of course, having decided upon a mercantile career. With this end in view he attended McLachlan's Business College, at Grand Rapids, for one year, and in 1898 entered the State Bank of Michigan, with which institution he was identified for six months. His next connection was with the Klingman Furniture Company, where he remained two years, and Sept. 23, 1901, entered the service of the Cargill Company. Mr. Jaqua's first position with this concern was as bookkeeper, but his duties were discharged in such a faithful and competent manner that he soon won promotion and successively passed through all the various department offices until he was made secretary and treasurer of the company, which position he now holds. As he has advanced, he has thoroughly assimilated all the details of the business, from both the mechanical and executive ends, and is today justly adjudged one of the well-informed men of the business. Mr. Jaqua was married Aug. 29, 1900, to Miss Gertrude E. Petrie, of Montcalm county, and of this union there have been born a daughter and a son—Marguerite L. and Russell C. The family attends the Congregational church. Mr. Jaqua is fraternally identified with Malta Lodge No. 465, F. & A. M., and both he and Mrs. Jaqua are members of Peninsular Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star. As a voter Mr. Jaqua is a Republican, but business duties have engrossed his time to the exclusion of other matters, and he has never been active in public affairs except as a public-spirited citizen.

Hosted by Google

Harry D. Jewell.—One of the men worthy of enrollment upon the pages of the history of the legal profession of Kent county is Hon. Harry D. Jewell. Not only is he an attorney of ability and capability, but a man whose standards are of the highest character. He began practice at Grand Rapids in January, 1902, and as the years have passed his honors have increased and his legal knowledge has received its due recognition among those of his own profession and the laymen whom he has served. Harry D. Jewell, ex-judge of the Probate Court, was born at Wheaton, Ill., March 5, 1869, and is a son of Oliver P. and Hannah (Dimick) Jewell, the former a native of Hector, N. Y., and the latter of Seneca county, in the same state. Oliver P. Jewell came to Kent county, Michigan, in 1856, with his father, Ebenezer Jewell, who settled on a farm in Solon township and there rounded out his life in agricultural pursuits. In his native state Oliver P. Jewell had been a newspaper man, being the owner of the Penn Yan Gazette, and in 1861 went back to the East and disposed of this sheet, then returning to Kent county, in time to take charge of the Home Relief work during the Civil war. Later he was in the offices of the Daily Eagle, but continued to own and to live on the farm in Solon township until several years prior to his death, which occurred in March, 1898. While a resident of New York City he was one of the organizers of the Typographical Union, known as the "Big Six," the first organization of that trade in the City of New York, and was on the committee of three that induced Horace Greeley to accept the presidency of that organization. Throughout his life he was a Republican, and his religious faith was that of the Presbyterian church. There were two children in the family: Marshall H., now deceased, who started the first Dakota daily, the Bismarck Tribune, and Harry D. After completing his early education in the common schools of Cedar Springs, Mich., Harry D. Jewell spent three years on the home farm and during this time read law in the offices of D. C. Lyle. In the Fall of 1889 he entered the University of Michigan, and so well versed in the law did he prove that he was not only admitted to the bar in the Spring of 1890, while still a student, but pursued a course in the literary department and completed the legal course by 1891, with which class he was graduated with his degrees and served as an assistant in the law school and as assistant law librarian for two years. He received his degree of Master of Laws from the University of Michigan in 1892, and at once entered upon the practice of his chosen profession. His first partnership was with Judge Reuben Hatch, of Grand Rapids, an association which continued for one year, when he was made register of probate. After four years in that office he was elected judge of the Probate Court, and was re-elected three times, finally resigning in the third year of his last term after a distinguished and eminently valuable service of fifteen years upon the bench. His record as a jurist is one of the best which appear upon the pages of Kent county's jurisprudential history, and by bench, bar and public alike he was held in the highest confidence as a fair and impartial, as well as a learned and conscientious judge. He returned to active practice in January, 1912, and on Dec. 1, 1915, he formed a partnership with Laurence W. Smith, a son of Judge Smith, of Ionia, Mich., and the firm of Jewell & Smith is now considered one of the most formidable in the city. Judge

Hosted by Google

Jewell engages in general, probate and corporation practice. During his exceptionally busy career he has found time to identify himself with movements which have contributed materially to the public and civic welfare and to the establishment of institutions for progress and advancement. He was a member of the commission which framed the new city charter for Grand Rapids; was on a committee with Judge Wolcott which aided in the establishment of the Michigan Juvenile Court system, and he established the Juvenile Court in Kent county; was a member of the committee to unify the Probate Court rules of practice, and in 1902 and 1903 was president of the Association of Probate Judges. Politically he is a stanch Republican. He is a Knights Templar Mason and Shriner, belongs to the Elks, the Woodmen, the Maccabees, the Peninsular club and the Association of Commerce, and has interested himself in the Big Brother movement. With his family, he belongs to the Park Congregational church. Judge Jewell was married Aug. 8, 1894, to Miss Euphemia S. Smith, who was born in Minnesota, daughter of Rev. J. Malcom and Euphemia (Eadie) Smith. During the greater part of his life Reverend Smith was a minister of the Presbyterian church, but in his later years, on coming to Grand Rapids, became a special writer for the Grand Rapids News, and continued so engaged during the rest of his life. Both he and Mrs. Smith are deceased. Judge and Mrs. Jewell are the parents of three children: Roger A., of Portage Point, Mich.; Ruth M., wife of Malcolm H. Sherwood, of this city, and Robert Harry, seven years old.

C. Evan Johnson.—To win success in business life at Grand Rapids requires more than ordinary ability which has been trained along the lines of commercial achievement and industrial knowledge. In a city of this size there is so much competition, events follow one another so closely, and circumstances play so important a part in the shaping of events, that he who would succeed must not only be thoroughly versed in matters as they apply to his own particular line of effort, but must also keep constantly in touch with other activities. Among those capable of grasping affairs with a competent hand, one who has won a substantial place for himself in standing and reputation is C. Evan Johnson, secretary and treasurer of the Proudfit Looseleaf Company. Mr. Johnson was born on a farm in Shiawassee county, Michigan, Nov. 25, 1868, son of Hiram and Frances (Cronkhite) Johnson. His father, who came of an old and honored Michigan family, and who was born near Corunna, this state, was brought up to agricultural pursuits and followed the vocation of a farmer until receiving an appointment to a position in the United States Weather Bureau, at Washington, D. C. He continued to make his home at the national capital until his death, in 1915. Mrs. Johnson was born in the State of New York, and died in Venice, Shiawassee county, in 1881. There were five children in the family: Lillian, wife of Clark Potter, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Miss Edith M., of Grand Rapids; C. Evan, of this notice; Fayette, of Washington, D. C., and Ray, deceased. C. Evan Johnson was given splendid educational advantages in his youth, fitting him for any position which he might be able to occupy in the world. After attending the public schools in the neighborhood of his father's farm in Shiawassee county, he was sent to Alma College, following which he went to the Central Michigan Col-

Hosted by Google

lege and completed his intellectual and business training by a course at Cleary's Business College, at Ypsilanti, Mich. After his graduation in that institution, in 1891, Mr. Johnson went to Detroit, where he secured employment with the firm of Daniel J. Campau. He remained there for something like four years, but in 1895 came to Grand Rapids, where he entered the employ of the Waddell Manufacturing Company. For the next nine years he was bookkeeper for this concern and then went on the road as a traveling salesman, a position which he retained for four years. At this time an opportunity presented itself and Mr. Johnson accepted it and went to Knoxville, Tenn., where he embarked in wood-working as a manufacturer, but this proved neither congenial nor satisfactory and in the same year, 1908, he returned to Grand Rapids and identified himself with the Proudfit Looseleaf Company, in the dual capacity of secretary and treasurer. Mr. Johnson has always held to high ideals in his business operations, and his devotion to his duties has been characterized as something rather unusual. He belongs to the Association of Commerce and has aided his city in its advancement by working in the ranks of the Greater Grand Rapids Association. Fraternally he is a thirty-second degree Mason and a Knights Templar and a Shriner, as well as a member of the Knights of Pythias, and his political beliefs make him a Democrat.

F. M. Johnson.—In a prominent position on the roster of journalists of Kent county is found the name of F. M. Johnson, editor of the Lowell Ledger. Mr. Johnson has been connected with newspaper work throughout his career, and has been located at Lowell, connected with his present publication, since June, 1893. He came here a young man with much experience and almost immediately established a position for himself in his new community, where during a quarter of a century he has been an important factor in assisting to build up Lowell and its institutions. Mr. Johnson was born at Almont, Lapeer county, Michigan, Dec. 8, 1860, son of James S. and Mary (Parmlee) Johnson. The parents were born in Vermont and they came, in 1846, to Almont, Mich. The father was a young man when he heard the news that was flashed around the world in regard to the discovery of gold in California. Determined that he would make his fortune in that land of promise, and not being able to command sufficient funds with which to make the trip by the southern route, in 1849, with several other adventurous spirits, he set off from his home and made the long and hazardous journey across the great plains, finally arriving at his destination. There, like many others, he found that the glittering reports had been greatly exaggerated, and after a short stay, with only a moderate measure of success, he returned by way of Mexico to his home in Lapeer county, Michigan, where he had originally come with his bride three years before he had contracted the "gold fever." At Almont he engaged in farming and lumbering and continued to be actively identified with those vocations until his death. F. M. Johnson attended the graded schools of Almont, then spent one year in the high school at Flint, and returned to Almont, where he completed his education in the Almont High School and graduated with the class of 1880. Right at the outset of his career he identified himself with newspaper work, and his entire career has been devoted to journalistic labor. His first expe-

Hosted by Google

rience was secured as an employe of the Almont Herald, with which he was identified for three years, and in 1884 he went to Mayville, Mich., where for six years he was editor of the Monitor, a newspaper which is still in existence. For five months after leaving that publication he worked as a printer in the office of the Tribune, at Bismarck, N. D., and subsequently was for one and one-half years connected with the Michigan Artisan, at Grand Rapids. He also traveled to some extent in Michigan, looking for a suitable location and working in various newspaper offices, and finally, in June, 1893, came to Lowell, where he established the Ledger. He has piloted this publication safely through a number of storms and has eventually brought it safely into the harbor of prosperity and public confidence. In presenting to the people of Lowell and the surrounding country a clean, well-edited and well-printed sheet, with reliable news matter and timely editorials, Mr. Johnson has always kept his columns open to the support of movements for the benefit of the city and its people. The paper is independent in its political policy, standing fearlessly for its conception of what is right and attacking courageously those things it adjudges wrong, irrespective of party lines. Mr. Johnson is personally independent in his views on public questions and prefers to figure out matters himself than to allow leaders to do his thinking for him. Fraternally, he is affiliated with Lowell Lodge No. 90, F. & A. M. Mr. Johnson was married Feb. 2, 1882, to Miss Myrtie C., daughter of Anthony C. and Lavina (Wood) Dickerson, pioneer residents of Almont, Mich., who are now deceased. Mrs. Johnson attended the Almont High School and was a member of her husband's graduating class. They are the parents of four children: Ola M., who is now Mrs. English, of Grand Rapids; James A. and Rob Roy, of Pontiac, and Ruth E., who resides with her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and their daughter are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Henry A. Johnson.—It may be cited as proof of the stable character of the people of Kent county that many of the finest farms here are owned by direct descendants of the original settlers, and that the land has never been out of the family since it was secured half a century or more ago by the pioneer of the family. The Johnson farm, in Bowne township, is a case in point, for its owner is Henry A. Johnson, who secured it by purchase from the heirs of his parents, who located here at the close of the Civil war. Mr. Johnson, in addition to being a prominent agriculturist, is connected in various ways with important business interests and has also taken no small part in the public affairs of the community, having repeatedly served in offices within the gift of his fellow-citizens. He was born on the farm which he now occupies, March 3, 1877, son of James C. and Eleanor L. (Nash) Johnson. His father, a native of Cherry Valley, Pa., received ordinary educational advantages and in his youth followed farming. When the Civil war came on he served a short enlistment as a member of a Pennsylvania regiment, and then, coming to Michigan, enlisted in Company F, Sixth Michigan cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war. With his honorable discharge and a splendid record as a faithful and hard-fighting soldier of the Union, he returned to the duties of peace and to the vocation of an agriculturist, buying eighty acres of land in Bowne township, the greater

Hosted by Google

part of which was uncleared. He completed the clearing of this tract and cultivated it, and in later years added forty acres to his original purchase, and passed the rest of his life in developing a productive and handsome country estate. Here both he and his wife died. Mr. Johnson was one of the well-known men of his community, who stood high in the estimation and confidence of his fellow-citizens, whom he represented in school offices and as supervisor of Bowne township for nine years. He was a Democrat in politics, and he and Mrs. Johnson were faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Bowne Center, of which he was a trustee. His fraternal connection was with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were the parents of five children: Gladys, who married W. H. Pardee, of Traverse City, Mich.; Lydia, wife of John W. Porritt, of Bowne township; Jennie, wife of O. B. Pardee, of this township; Katherine, who married W. Cosgriff, also of Bowne township; and Henry A. Henry A. Johnson attended the district schools of Bowne township and spent two years at the Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal School, and for the two years which followed devoted his talents to school-teaching in his native township. Following his father's demise, he returned to the home farm, which he managed for his mother until she died, and at that time bought the 120-acre home farm from the other heirs and has since, by good management, added forty acres more to the estate. As a general farmer he has been more than ordinarily successful, as he has also in the breeding of live-stock, particularly hogs, his registered animals having gained his farm some reputation as a breeder through this section. Mr. Johnson is also well known in business circles as a man of good judgment and ability and is a director in the Alto Co-operative Elevator Company and secretary of the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company. With his family, he attends the Methodist Episcopal church and has liberally supported its movements. A Republican in political tendency, he has served in school offices and as supervisor of the township, has been township clerk seven years, and township treasurer two years, and for the past four years has been supervisor, and in each capacity has given his best abilities and energies to the furtherance of things which have promised to advance the community interest. His only fraternal connection is with the Modern Woodmen of America lodge. Mr. Johnson was married, Nov. 28, 1902, to Edna A., daughter of Moses and Celinda (Bergy) Weitz, natives of Canada, Mr. Weitz now being a resident of Bowne township. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have five children, all at home, born as follows: Lucile, Dec. 10, 1903; James Lawrence, April 27, 1905; Alice, May 14, 1911; Morris, Jan. 27, 1914; and Helen Virginia, July 26, 1917.

John B. Johnson.—Of the native-born citizens of Grand Rapids who, after many years of business activity have now passed away, one who won success and a place in the confidence and esteem of those with whom he associated was the late John B. Johnson, for a long time a member of the firm of Hensen & Johnson. He was essentially a product of the city and of its busy life, for he was not only born here, but received his education and his business training in the city's institutions, and passed the entire period of his career within its borders, with the exception of an inconsiderable time at Kalamazoo. Mr. Johnson won success through his own efforts, and while so doing

Hosted by Google

proved himself a good and public-spirited citizen, so that his loss was a community one. He was born May 26, 1856, son of Adrian and Hendrika (Katz) Johnson, both of whom were born in the Netherlands and on first coming to the United States when young people located at Grand Rapids, and were there married. The elder Johnson was the pioneer plasterer of the city, a man of good judgment and industry, who later developed into a well-to-do contractor in plastering and continued to be so engaged until his death. Mrs. Johnson survives him as a resident of Grand Rapids and is a devout member of the Reformed church, of which her husband was also a member. After attending the public schools of Grand Rapids, John B. Johnson worked for a time at plastering with his father, with whom he learned the trade. For a brief period he resided at Kalamazoo, and upon his return to Grand Rapids accepted a position on the city police force and continued to be an officer of the city government for thirteen and one-half years, when he resigned, having recognized a good business opportunity. Thus was formed the firm of Hensen & Johnson, an association which continued for many years. For some time previous to his death, which occurred April 10, 1910, he was in business on his own account. He is still remembered as a man of the strictest business integrity, who gave his associates a fair deal in all transactions and who looked for only legitimate opportunities, of which, however, he was capable of taking advantage at all times. He belonged to the Printers' Association, was a charter member of the Knickerbocker club, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and for about fifteen years was a trustee of the Wealthy Avenue Baptist church. Mr. Johnson was married, Nov. 27, 1880, to Gertdina, daughter of Luburtus and Hendrika (Brummeler) Kumperman, of Grand Rapids, and of this union were born three children: Hendrika W., who resides with her mother; Lulu, wife of Orange Sackett, of Grand Rapids, and Adrian C., also of this city. Mrs. Johnson, who survives her husband and resides at 343 Eastern avenue, S. E., was born in the city of Amsterdam, Holland, and was fourteen years of age when she came with her parents to Grand Rapids, here completing in the public schools her education that she had commenced in her native land. The family came here in 1872, and Mr. Kumperman, who was a cabinetmaker by trade, was employed in the furniture factories until his death, July 4, 1881. Mrs. Kumperman passed away in 1904. They were faithful members of the Reformed church and highly respected and esteemed people of their community.

Paul Johnson.—Of the agriculturists of Kent county who have brought to bear upon their work a sound realization of its dignity and an appreciation of its possibilities, one who has been more than ordinarily successful on this account is Paul Johnson, whose farm in Solon township gives indisputable proof of the presence of able management and wise direction. From boyhood Mr. Johnson was trained carefully in the various branches of the calling in which he expected to spend his life, and this early instruction has proved of inestimable value to him in later years and has given him an advantage that he has not been slow to make the most of. Like many others of Kent county's farmers, Mr. Johnson is a native of New York State, where he was born, May 12, 1855. His father was James Johnson, one of the foremost farmers of Genesee county, a man of practicality and sound

Hosted by Google

common-sense, an industrious worker, and a wise and thoughtful parent. He it was who impressed upon his sons the importance and responsibilities of the position held by the farming class in the country, and he it was who carefully trained them in the thousand and one things that it is necessary to know in order to gain success as a tiller of the soil. Paul Johnson was educated in the public schools of Genesee county and grew up to strong and sturdy manhood. With youthful ambition, he decided to carve out his own fortune and, feeling that the limits of his home county and state were too confining, he struck out for the West and in due course of time reached his destination in Kent county. Here, in a new country, and amid strange conditions, he was able to put to the test the value of his instruction, and while circumstances were different in Michigan than they had been in New York, he was able to prove the soundness of his theories and the worth of his training. From the time of his arrival his career has been marked by an ever-increasing success, and today he is accounted one of the substantial agriculturists of Solon township, his farm being on section 12, just across the line from Algoma township. He continues to be a student of his vocation, familiarizing himself with its every phase, and to this fact may be accredited much of his success. The constant advancements being made in agricultural science find in him a supporter who keeps fully abreast of the times. In the affairs of his community, Mr. Johnson is no less progressive, and while he has had no desire for public office he is fully informed as to civic and national affairs and able to place an accurate estimate upon the worth of movements and the actions of men. In 1881 Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Rachel Price, a native of Michigan and a member of an old and honorable family here. They have no children. Politically Mr. Johnson supports the Democratic party and its candidates. He is a man of genial manner and has attracted to himself many warm friends.

Robert Johnson.—Of the many fine farms to be found in Bowne township, it is doubtful if there are any which can boast of better improvements than those which enhance the value and add to the appearance of the property belonging to Robert Johnson, located on section 21. Mr. Johnson has been in the main an agriculturist all his life, but his experiences have been many in a long, active and successful career, and have included participation in the Civil war, worthy public service as an official, the conduct of several hotels and the cultivation of large tracts of farming land. Mr. Johnson was born in Chautauqua county, New York, Dec. 15, 1844, son of Stephen and Catherine (McConnell) Johnson, the latter a native of Ireland and the former of Vermont. The Johnson family originated in England and was founded in America during the Colonial era of this country's history, and the great-grandfather of Robert Johnson fought as a patriot soldier during the Revolutionary war, while his grandfather, a carpenter by trade, was an American soldier during the War of 1812. Stephen Johnson was given excellent educational opportunities in his youth, and, deciding upon a professional career, studied first for the Presbyterian ministry and later for the law, but finally adopted teaching as his vocation. In this connection he became widely known in several states, presiding over classes for forty-five terms of school, and also being a teacher of vocal music. In addition to this he was a

Hosted by Google

successful farmer. From his native state of Vermont he first removed to Chautauqua county, New York, and then went to Erie county, Pennsylvania, where he spent five years, then returning to the Empire State. In 1863 he came to Michigan and bought two forty-acre tracts of land, one for $140, and later added twenty-two acres to his original purchase and rounded out his life in tilling the soil on the farm on which he first settled, although the last several years of his life were passed in retirement. He was a man of superior intelligence, varied attainments and splendid mind, and for many years was notary public and justice of the peace in his community, where for a long period he performed most of the marriage ceremonies and presided at other gatherings. One of the leading Republicans of his locality, he was on one occasion a delegate to a state convention, and almost continually was the incumbent of some township office. Stephen and Catherine Johnson were the parents of eight children: Orrin L., deceased, who was in the Union army during the Civil war and won promotion to the rank of sergeant; Henry, also fought in the army and was promoted to bugler; James, fought as a member of the Sixth Michigan cavalry; John C., deceased; William was in the Union army and was shot at Fredericksburg; Mary, deceased; Robert; and Jasper, who was also in the Union army and is now proprietor of a general store at St. Johns, Mich. These brothers, with the exception of Robert and John C., enlisted in June, 1861, and took part in many engagements in the struggle between the forces of the North and South, including the battle of Gettysburg. Robert Johnson received his education in the district schools, after leaving which he was for about one year employed in the Pennsylvania oil fields. In September, 1863, he enlisted in the United States navy as a landsman, subsequently qualified as a seaman, and was then made ship's cook, and June 25, 1865, received his honorable discharge, having established a good record as a wearer of his country's uniform. At that time he came to Kent county, Michigan, where he purchased forty acres of wild land in Bowne township, for $240, and when he had put it under cultivation sold it and bought eighty acres, which he also sold. He then embarked in the hotel business at Middleville, and after being there two years, at Big Rapids for eleven years, at Greenville for one and one-half years, and at Stanton for one year, all in Michigan, returned to agricultural pursuits, purchasing 100 acres of his present farm in Bowne township, section 21, to which he has since added by purchases of sixty and forty acres. This is without doubt one of the best improved farms, if not the best, in the township, and Mr. Johnson is a breeder of Shorthorn cattle. The improvements, all made by Mr. Johnson, are new and modern in character, and include every comfort known to life in the country. He is still actively interested in farming operations, assisted by two of his sons, and is accounted an important factor in the progressive developments which have gained prestige for this region in an agricultural way. Mr. Johnson is a Republican and has filled various township offices, including those of clerk, treasurer and school director, and his official record is a splendid one. He was married, Dec. 25, 1869, to Lovina, daughter of Russell Smith, a wagonmaker from Ohio who came to Michigan in 1858 and spent the rest of his life in farming. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have three sons: Clayton is assisting in the cultivation of the home farm;

Hosted by Google

Raymond is his father's other assistant and the father of two daughters—Margaret, aged eighteen years, and Elsie, aged twelve; and Harry F. is an attorney at Grand Rapids, Mich., and has two sons—Robert, Jr., aged four years, and Paul Franklin.

B. D. Jones.—Prominent among the old and honored residents of Kent county, one who after seventy-four years of residence here is still actively engaged in his daily routine of work, is B. D. Jones, of the Cedar Springs community. Since entering upon his career as a youth, Mr. Jones has been engaged in various occupations, all within the limits of Kent county, and it is his privilege to say that since his arrival he has never spent a single night outside of the county boundaries. Like many of his fellow-citizens in this section, Mr. Jones is a contribution to Michigan from the Empire State. He was born in New York, Jan. 12, 1841, and was a child of three years when brought to the West by his parents. His father was one of the earliest residents of Solon township, where he engaged for many years in farming, and B. D. Jones grew up amid pioneer surroundings, early becoming inured to hard work and learning the value of money and the virtue of honest labor. He secured his education in the primitive district school and when he was ready to start upon his career followed the example of numerous other young and enterprising men of his community and entered the lumber camps, this being considered the main vocation during his day for ambitious youths who were not afraid of toil. This occupation became less and less profitable as the years passed and the lumber was taken out, and eventually Mr. Jones turned his attention to other matters. Being possessed of abilities which adapted themselves readily to almost any business at hand, he had no trouble in finding profitable employment, and he was finally able to take up farming as a proprietor, a business which he followed for many years. While he has reached an age that most men would consider at which to retire, he still retains his strength and mentality and continues to keep actively at work each day, having also retained the skill of hand and the quickness of mind that made him so useful in his younger days. While he has never had an actual course in mechanics, he is naturally gifted in this way, and is thus able to turn his hand to almost any piece of work. While he has not been a seeker for personal preferment, Mr. Jones has at various times been the choice of his fellow-citizens for public office and has filled various township offices, and at one time served as deputy sheriff of Kent county. He gives his support to the Republican party at elections and at all times his assistance can be depended on in matters pertaining to the public welfare.

Jacob Jones.—One of the progressive, intelligent and enterprising agriculturists of Kent county, whose operations in his chosen vocation have been prosecuted during recent years in the northern part of the county, is Jacob Jones, owner of an eighty-acre property in Algoma township. Mr. Jones is another example of the fact that men trained in other lines of endeavor can succeed as farmers if they possess the necessary industry and intelligence, for prior to locating in the country he had for many years followed the trade of carpenter. Mr. Jones is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and was born March 3, 1858, his parents being James and Sarah (Hunter) Jones. The parents were born, reared and educated in the State of New York, and shortly after

Hosted by Google

their marriage removed to Cleveland, where they passed the remaining years of their lives. James Jones worked in the iron foundry business, as a puddler, and was so engaged until within a few years of his demise, when he retired from active pursuits. Jacob Jones was sent for his education to the public schools of Cleveland, and when his intellectual training was completed began to learn the trade of carpenter. Having mastered that vocation he worked thereat for a number of years at Cleveland, but soon after his marriage to Emma Rice, of Cleveland, removed to the State of Michigan and settled at Grand Rapids. Mr. Jones continued to follow his trade in that city and worked with such good effect and managed his affairs so capably that he was able to lay aside an appreciable amount of money. For some years it had been his ambition to be the owner of a farm and home of his own, and eventually he realized this aim when he purchased forty acres of land in Algoma township. He has since been carrying on agricultural operations with a full measure of success, and his present farm is double the original size. His land is fertile and productive, owing to expert treatment of the soil and the use of the most highly approved methods of agricultural science, and as a whole the property reflects great credit upon its owner's ability, having been improved with good buildings of substantial character and attractive design and boasting of many modern conveniences and labor-saving devices. Mr. Jones as a business man is level-headed, belonging to that class of farmers who are ready to accept a reasonable price for their crops instead of holding out for something unreasonable, with a possible subsequent danger of depreciation in value. He has built up a good reputation for integrity among his associates. Mr. and Mrs. Jones have numerous friends in the community of their home, which is located not far from the town of Cedar Springs. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church there and have been generous in their support of its enterprises, as well as of other movements, educational, religious, civic and social. Fraternally, Mr. Jones affiliates with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Republican in his political views, and while he takes an intelligent interest in national and local events has never sought preference as an official in public position.

William H. Jones.—With the exception of three years, during which he was wearing the uniform of his country in the dark days of the Civil war, the entire career of William H. Jones has been passed at Grand Rapids, and the history of his development is much the same as the history of the development of the city. Under his eye, and with himself as a participating factor, the far-famed Furniture City has grown and progressed, and in no less a manner has he advanced beyond the limitations of his early life. As president of the William A. Berkey Company, he today occupies a place of recognized prominence in manufacturing circles of one of the principal manufacturing centers of the Middle West. Mr. Jones was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 5, 1846, son of Wilson and Elizabeth (McGraw) Jones. His parents, natives of New York, migrated to Michigan about the year 1842, settling at Grand Rapids, where the father found lucrative employment at his trade of carpenter, many of the earlier frame buildings of the city having been monuments to his mechanical skill and industry. Carpentry continued to be his occupation through-

Hosted by Google

out his life, and after some years of retirement he died at the age of eighty-five. Mrs. Jones has also been deceased for many years. There were six children in the family: Helen, William H., C. W., E. W., and Elizabeth, all residents of Grand Rapids, and Mary, deceased. William H. Jones was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and when still a lad began to gain experience in the furniture business as a worker in the factories. The Civil war came on to find him still a stripling, but after the struggle had gone its bloody way for a year the lad felt that his country needed him, and, although he was only sixteen years old, managed to be accepted by the recruiting officers and, Aug. 14, 1862, was enrolled as a member of Company H, Twenty-first Michigan infantry. Three years of hard fighting followed, in which he saw some of the heavy engagements of the war, and when the brave young soldier returned to his home, after his honorable discharge, he was wearing a corporal's stripe. While in the army he had gained some idea of the responsibilities of life, and shortly after his return he went to Chicago, where he took a business course in Eastman's Commercial College. He then came back to Grand Rapids and entered the employ of the Berkey Brothers & Gay Furniture Company. There, during the years that followed, he learned the furniture business in all its numerous details, and about 1884 became identified with the William A. Berkey Furniture Company. This concern had been founded in 1881 by William A. Berkey, at the corner of Louis and Campau streets, and the original company remained until 1886, when a stock company, incorporated for $85,000, was formed, with the following officers: William A. Berkey, president; William H. Jones, vice-president; L. T. Peck, secretary and treasurer, and C. E. Peck, office manager. Mr. Berkey remained as president until his death, in January, 1902, when he was succeeded by Mr. Jones. In 1906 the company was re-incorporated, and the officers then elected still retain their positions: W. H. Jones, president; E. B. Jones, vice-president, and L. T. Peck, secretary and treasurer. The company moved its offices and plant to the present location at 39-55 Market avenue, N. W., in 1884, but since that time, of necessity, many changes have been made and the plant at this time is greatly larger and presents a much changed appearance from that of thirty-four years ago. Also, the number of employes has been greatly advanced, there now being 150 skilled mechanics at work, while five traveling salesmen represent the company on the road, their territory being the United States and Canada. The output of this company consists principally of mahogany dining room and library furniture, which has won a reputation throughout the country and which finds a ready market everywhere. Mr. Jones is a man of varied business interests, one to whom his associates naturally turn for advice and counsel. Few men are better known in the furniture trade and it is doubtful if any have a better acquaintance with it or can speak more authoritatively on furniture values and conditions. He is a Republican, but has never been weaned from his business affairs by the call of politics. An active member of Grace Episcopal church, he has served as vestryman for thirty years and as junior warden for six years. He belongs to several clubs, among them the Kent Country club. Mr. Jones was married, Sept. 27, 1870, at Grand Rapids, to Miss Emma Berkey, daughter of William A. Berkey, of

Hosted by Google

this city, and four children were born of this union: Mary, Harry, E. Berkey, and William, all of whom are deceased save E. Berkey, of Grand Rapids.

Charles B. Judd.—The late Charles Judd, whose career was one in which the quality of self-help played an important part, belonged to that select coterie of men whose foresight enabled them to realize the future greatness of the city of Grand Rapids and to profit accordingly. His youth had been adventurous and he possessed but little capital when he returned to the city of his boyhood, but it was his fortune to be possessor of characteristics which made for success, and he lived to place himself in comfortable circumstances in a material way and in an honorable position among business men. Mr. Judd was born at New Milford, Conn., Jan. 21, 1852, a son of A. B. Judd. The latter was a pioneer merchant of Grand Rapids, coming to this city in 1858 and establishing himself in the furniture and undertaking business on the present site of the Friedrich Music House, at No. 206 Monroe avenue, at that time known as 30 Canal street. For many years he carried on a profitable business, and was well known to the earlier generation of people of the Furniture City, even before it had acquired such a title. He has long since passed away. Charles B. Judd was past six years of age when he accompanied his parents to Grand Rapids, and here his education was secured in the public schools. As a lad he did not take kindly to the parental discipline, and finally ran away from home to make his own way in the world. Like many other runaway boys, he took up railroading, a vocation which holds out allurements to venturesome and adventure-loving youths, and gradually worked his way up in the service until he became a Pullman conductor, one of the first to be designated as such. When he gave up train service and returned to Grand Rapids, Mr. Judd began work on a device for a carpet sweeper, and in this connection came into association with the late Melville R. Bissell and Walter Drew, whom he joined in partnership, in 1883, in the formation of the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company, now the owner of the largest factory of its kind in the world. In the organization, promotion and building up of this business, Mr. Judd played a most important part, and to his sterling abilities as a manufacturer much of the success of the concern is due. He was one of the men to whom their associates instinctively looked for advice and leadership in matters of importance, and his counsel was seldom found to be wrong, while as a citizen, in promoting various movements, his motives were universally acknowledged to be disinterested and public-spirited. In Masonry, Mr. Judd stood high. He was a member of Grand River Lodge No. 34 and Grand River Chapter No. 7; and took the Templar degree in 1879 and the Scottish Rite in the same year. He joined the Shrine as a member of Moslem Temple, of Detroit, May 10, 1882, and was a charter member of Saladin Temple. His financial interests were numerous, and he was one of the organizers and a director of the People's Savings Bank. Following a stroke of paralysis, he died Oct. 30, 1915, at his home at 445 Cherry street, S. E. Mr. Judd was married, Jan. 21, 1875, to Miss Georgiana White, daughter of George H. and Sarah A. (Hetfield) White, and she survives him, as do also a daughter, Mrs. Charles F. Powers, and an adopted daughter, Mrs. R. L. Sexton.

Hosted by Google

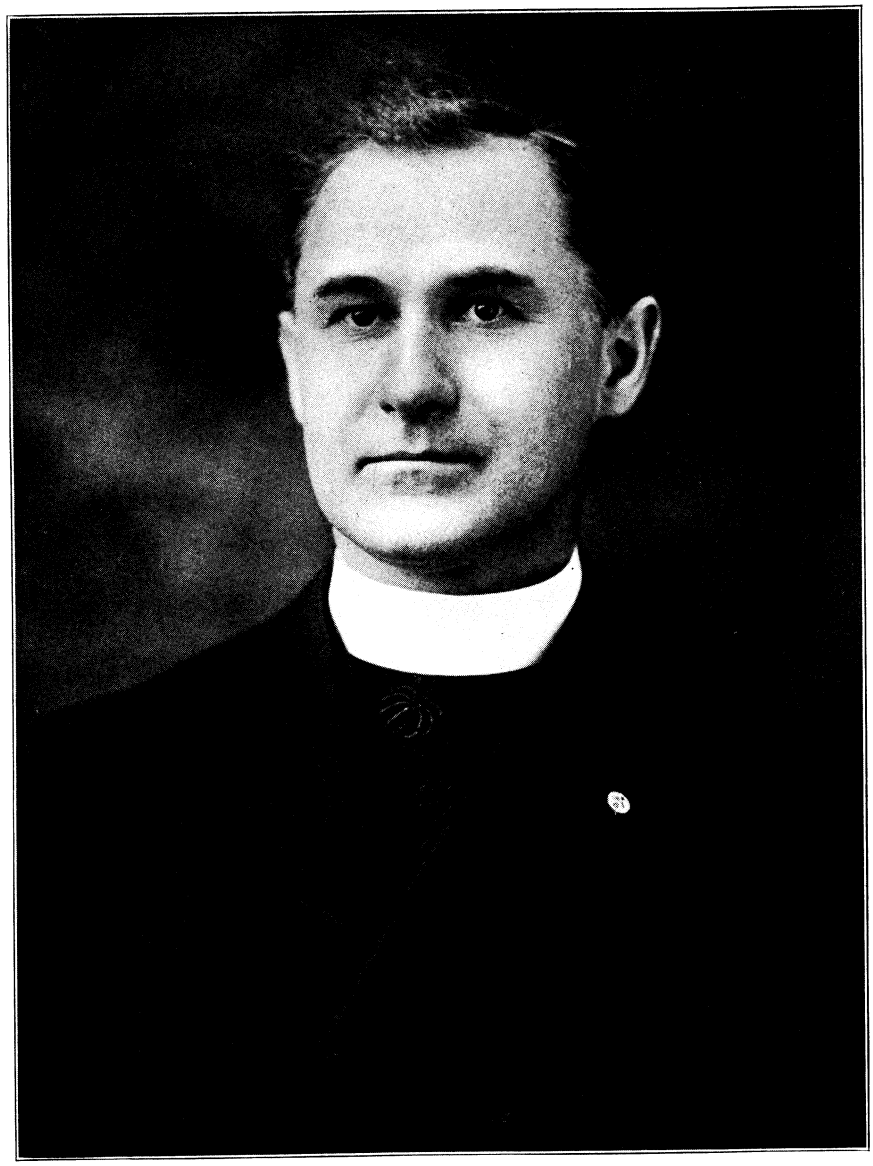


Charles B. Jordan

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Joseph S. Kaminski

Hosted by Google

Rev. Joseph S. Kaminski.—The substantial results of years of effort, intelligently directed by a trained mind, are gratifying to one who has devoted his life to carrying out the highest ideals of a certain calling. No man can be greater than his appreciation of the debt he owes the world, and the learned men who rise highest are those who endeavor to aid humanity and assist their fellows. A member of the Catholic clergy who has accomplished a great and good work in behalf of his fellow-men, who is greatly reverenced and held in affection by his flock, and who is admired by his fellow-priests as well as by the public at large, is Rev. Joseph S. Kaminski, pastor of the Sacred Heart parish (Polish) of the Catholic church at Grand Rapids. He was born in Allegan county, Michigan, Jan. 11, 1878, being a son of John and Mary (Adamczyk) Kaminski, who were both born in Poland but were married in the United States. John Kaminski was still a young man when he arrived in this country, and, being bright, ambitious and energetic, had no trouble in securing employment. For a number of years he was connected with the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway, rising to the position of foreman, and eventually became the owner of a good farm in Allegan county. Eventually, in 1880, he left Allegan county and came to Grand Rapids, where he was foreman for the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern for thirty-five years, and here he and his wife still make their home, well advanced in years. They are faithful members of the Catholic church, and the father is a Democrat in his political views. There were six children in the family, namely: Francis, who lives at Grand Rapids; Rev. Joseph S.; Mary, who is the wife of Stanislaus Merdzinski, of Grand Rapids; and John, Henry and Natalia, who reside with their parents. Father Joseph S. Kaminski began his education at St. Albert's parochial school, following which he went to St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wis., and was graduated there in 1903, after completing the prescribed course. He was ordained, April 11 of that year, and his first charge was assistant at St. Stanislaus' church, Bay City, Mich., where he remained for four and one-half years. He was very successful in his labors at that place, as he was at St. Anthony's parish, at Fisherville, Mich., where he continued one and one-half years, and his labors at St. Mary's church, Alpena, Mich., where he remained for four years, were also productive of good results. He was called to the Sacred Heart parish, at Grand Rapids, Feb. 1, 1913, and since that time has been bending every energy in behalf of the interests of his people here. The Sacred Heart parish (Polish) was established in 1904, at which time it belonged to St. Albert's parish. The church was dedicated, Thanksgiving Day of that year, and cost in the neighborhood of $15,000. Father L. P. Krakowski was pastor at the time, and there were 150 families in the parish. How greatly the parish has grown during the incumbency of Father Kaminski is shown in the fact that there are now 400 families in the parish, while there are about 400 pupils in the parochial school, taught by seven Sisters of Notre Dame, Milwaukee. The Sisters' Home was built in 1907, and the parish house about 1909, and both are substantial structures, as well as attractive and commodious. Father Kaminski has been something more than spiritual advisor to his people. He has also served as counsellor, guide and friend, and in their business affairs has directed

Hosted by Google

them well and led them along lines of honesty and industry. His labors have had their reward in a constantly-growing parish and in the love and confidence of the people who make up the Sacred Heart congregation. It should be here stated that, in 1917, Father Kaminski caused plans for a new church to be drafted, the cost of the same to be $82,000. Work on it is under way, and when completed it will be one of the most beautiful church structures in the city.

Willard F. Keeney.—The city of Grand Rapids contains a great many able men who have made the law the profession of their lives. That all should be equally successful in such a career would be an impossibility; the prizes in the battles of life are few and far between, and the fortunate individuals must needs be gifted with qualifications of a diverse character, personal charm of manner or power of intellect sufficient to dominate and control their fellowmen, exceptional legal ability, good judgment and ready perception. Among the representative lawyers of the city, there are but few who possess these necessary characteristics in greater degree than does Willard F. Keeney, who has been engaged in practice here for nearly thirty-five years. Mr. Keeney was born at Arcola, Douglas county, Illinois, Jan. 25, 1862, son of Daniel and Rhoda (White) Keeney. Daniel Keeney was born at Brant, Ontario, Canada, and in 1839, when six years of age, was brought by his parents to Kent county, the family settling in the eastern part of the county, in the Vergennes community. There he was reared, educated and grew to manhood, and married Rhoda White, who, like himself, had been born at Brant, Ontario, and had been brought to Kent county by her father, Walter White, a native of Oneida county, New York, who had lived for several years in Canada, but who in 1844 came to Michigan and rounded out his career in agricultural pursuits in Vergennes township. Some time after his marriage, Daniel Keeney went to Arcola, Ill., where for several years he was engaged in the lumber business, subsequently going to Pennsylvania, where he was interested in the oil industry. In 1869 he returned to Michigan, locating at Grand Rapids on May 1 of that year, and here for a number of years was interested in various successful business ventures. At the time of his retirement from active affairs he went to La Mesa, Cal., where Mrs. Keeney died, March 8, 1917, and where he still makes his home at the age of eighty-two years. While residents of Grand Rapids, Mr. and Mrs. Keeney were faithful members of the Park Congregational church. They had four children: Cora K., wife of A. B. Mason, of La Mesa, Cal.; Walter L., who also resides at that place; Willard F., and George W., of Seattle, Wash. The early education of Willard F. Keeney was secured at Grand Rapids, where he attended the graded and high schools, and, having decided upon the law as his profession, entered the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated with his literary degree, and subsequently took the law course of one year. He was admitted to the bar in November, 1883. Prior to this time, however, in April, 1882, he had been a student and clerk in the office of Roger W. Butterfield, whose partner he became Jan. 1, 1887, and with whom, for a period of thirty-five years, he has been associated, the firm style now being Butterfield & Keeney. A son of his partner, R. C. Butterfield, was admitted to the firm in 1906. Mr. Keeney is engaged in a general practice, the success of which has grown steadily, and his legal

Hosted by Google

mind, his persuasive manner, sagacity, good humor and ready wit, have all combined to place him in his present enviable position. As a citizen he has been ever ready to assume and discharge to the full measure of his ability the responsibilities devolving upon him, and from May, 1903, until May, 1908, he acted ably as a member of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. He holds membership in the Colonial club, and, with his family, belongs to the Park Congregational church. Mr. Keeney was married, Nov. 10, 1897, to Margaret, daughter of the late Judge M. and Emily C (Canedy) Morton, of Fall River, Mass., Mrs. Keeney's father having formerly been justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. Of this union there have been born three children: Willard F., Jr., a student in the Treat School, Tennessee; Morton, attending the Hill School at Pottstown, Pennsylvania; and Roger Butterfield, also attending that institution.

Fred Kelley.—During a long and active career the activities of Fred Kelley have invaded a number of fields of endeavor, all connected in some way with the growth and development of Kent county and Grand Rapids. He has been a farmer, merchant and public official, winning success and reputation in each direction, and in all these vocations he has gained experience which has been valuable to him in the discharge of his duties as manager of the Madison Square branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, a position which he has occupied since June 1, 1916. Mr. Kelley was born on a farm in Gaines township, Kent county, Michigan, Feb. 14, 1865, son of Charles and Emeline (Clark) Kelley, the former a native of Vermont and the latter of New York. Charles Kelley came to Kent county as one of the early settlers of this region, in 1835, settling on a new farm which he operated until his death, in 1870. In addition to being an agriculturist, he was a millwright, a vocation which he had learned in his youth, and built the first mill in Kent county. He was an influential Republican of his community and the first supervisor of the township of Gaines, which he gave its name. He and Mrs. Kelley, who is also deceased, were the parents of the following children: Clark, whose death occurred when he was sixteen years of age; Adeline, widow of Freeman Brewer, of Detroit, Mich.; Nelson and Frank, who are engaged in agricultural operations in Gaines township, and Fred. Fred Kelley was but five years of age when his father died, but was reared to habits of industry and honesty by his mother and received a good common school education in the country districts. He was brought up as a farmer and remained on the home place until twenty-nine years of age, at which time he first came to Grand Rapids and served as deputy sheriff under Sheriff Nathaniel Rice for two months, when Mr. Rice died. Irving Woodworth was then appointed acting sheriff by the Governor and Mr. Kelley continued to serve under him for twenty-two months, or until Mr. Woodworth was elected sheriff, and he then continued thus to serve for an additional four years. He then re-engaged in agricultural pursuits for four years, when he again came to Grand Rapids in the sheriff's office, this time with Sheriff Albert A. Carroll, remaining four years. Once more Mr. Kelley became a farmer, but his experiences in the city had served to make him ambitious for success in a commercial way, and after one and one-half years in the country he came back

Hosted by Google

to Grand Rapids and opened a general merchandise store on West Bridge street and a drug store at Macawba Park. The general store he sold after one year and six months and entered the city clerk's office in the capacity of city license collector, a position which he filled efficiently for five years, and at the end of that time resigned to accept the position of manager of the Madison Square branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. The banking business was a new venture for Mr. Kelley at the time, but he was quick to learn his duties and has since proven a most valuable man for the institution. He has made numerous friends among the depositors of his branch, and a pleasing personality has been an important asset in the making of his success. He is a Republican in matters of a political nature, and belongs to the Masonic fraternity, in which he is popular with his fellow-members. He was married Sept. 28, 1910, to Mrs. Katherine (Erickson) Sundberg, widow of the late Victor Sundberg. By her former marriage Mrs. Kelley had two children: Ruth and Irene, the latter of whom is deceased.

David Wolcott Kendall.—"It will be years before the furniture industry of the world comes to a realization of the loss it suffered in David Wolcott Kendall's sudden demise. Like many another of those of great genius, real appreciation will come only as years pass and his works are viewed in the retrospect." Thus wrote Dr. Louis Barth, in 1910, when Grand Rapids was called upon to face the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens, an artist who had given to the world much that was beautiful. It is rarely the opportunity of the biographer to have for his subject one who has brought himself to the forefront in the exclusive field of art. The ordinary individual, master though he may be of business, politics or a profession, bows to the skill and the God-given power of the artist. Commercial success, professional attainment, public prowess—all these may be gained through a steady application to the rules and principles which govern them, but the genius which enables an individual to add to the world's total sum of things beautiful is a gift given to but few. It little befits the layman to attempt to draw a pen picture of one whose work brought him to the very forefront among American designers of furniture. Also, the limits necessarily assigned to this review preclude the idea of giving more than a review of the salient points of a career that left its impress not alone in the works of his hands, but in the lasting memory and brilliant achievements of those who were fortunate enough to have had the privilege of his tuition and kindly guidance. The death of David Wolcott Kendall, which occurred Feb. 16, 1910, in Mexico, took from Grand Rapids one who had helped to extend its fame around the world. But his talents had been so well directed that his career will ever remain as an inspiration to the younger devotees of the calling which he loved and to which he gave the years of his stimulating life. Not alone was David Wolcott Kendall distinguished in the field of his art, but by descent from ancestors which placed him above the common herd. He was born at Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1851, a son of David and Mary Ann (Wolcott) Kendall. On the paternal side he is descended from Francis Kendall, of Woburn, Mass., through Thomas, Elias, Thomas, Elias, Thomas and Daniel. Through Olive (Crane) Kendall, wife of Thomas Kendall, grandfather of David W. Kendall, he was descended from Wil-

Hosted by Google

liam Bradford, Thomas Rogers, William and Alice Mullens, and John and Priscilla Alden, who came to this country in the Mayflower. He was a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, having been admitted May 27, 1907, with general membership No. 2749, and among his numerous records, town histories, clerks' certificates, etc., was the following from the Society: "In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are undersigned do by virtue of these presents solemnly and mutually declare that David Wolcott Kendall, having to our satisfaction proven descent from William Bradford, who was a passenger on the good ship Mayflower when for the glory of God she made her first voyage to America, Anno Domini, 1620, has been created a member of the (Ye) General Society of Mayflower Descendants, in witness whereof, we hereto subscribe our names at Plymouth, in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the 25th day of June, Anno Domini, 1907." Mr. Kendall was also one of the principal organizers of the Michigan Society, Sons of the Revolution, and at the time of his death was one of its vice-presidents. On his mother's side he was a direct descendant from Roger Wolcott, the first Colonial governor of Connecticut, his grandfather being Anson Wolcott, born at Windsor, Conn., April 9, 1787, who married Lurinda Hawley Gillett, born at East Stockbridge, Mass., Jan. 14, 1802. His mother was born April 25, 1823, at East Bloomfield, Ontario county, New York, and his father at Millbury, Mass., Jan. 24, 1806. David Wolcott Kendall attended private and public schools of Rochester, N. Y., and the Canandaigua Academy in that state, and, having demonstrated remarkable genius in art, he became proficient as a cabinetmaker and draftsman and began his furniture work with the firm of P. M. Bromly & Company, at Rochester, about 1871. While thus employed he had the advantage of instruction from teachers in night schools, and later in life he absorbed much knowledge along the line he loved so well. He was next employed by the Wooten Desk Company, of Indianapolis, the Home Sewing Machine Company, of Peru, Ind., and L. Z. Fairbanks & Company, of Chicago, manufacturers of furniture to order, and when he left the last-named concern he first came to Grand Rapids and associated himself with the Phoenix Furniture Company, with which he remained for about four years. Leaving to enter the employ of the Berkey & Gay Company, he remained with that concern for three years, and then went to Detroit, where he formed the partnership of Kendall & Beardsley. He returned to Grand Rapids in July, 1888, and again became identified with the Phoenix Furniture Company, of which he was treasurer and general manager at the time of his death. Mr. Kendall's place among furniture designers was one established and recognized, but while he was a true artist, with a love for all things that were beautiful, he was also an intensely practical man. He was familiar with the equipment of the factory and knew to the utmost the possibilities of every machine. He made a deep study of furniture woods, how to treat them and how to finish them to produce the best results, while as a designer he had originality, character and strength, and his power grew with the years instead of waned. He always strove for artistic merit, for designs that would endure because deserving of it. Probably no designer in the country had been more widely copied in the last thirty years, and it is also probable that none has exercised

Hosted by Google

so great an influence upon art in furniture. Mr. Kendall's study of wood finishes was scientific, and he was the originator of the oak antique, and the first expert to give oak in furniture life and color, the things that have made this wood popular in the manufacture of furniture. Also, he brought out many other ideas which the trade adopted, not alone in finishes, but also in design and construction, and he was constantly studying, constantly progressing, to which fact may be accredited the high rank of the output of the company with which he was connected. Widely traveled, Mr. Kendall was always alert for the artistic, and his collection of art works and literature, and of bric-a-brac and things curious, was one of the most remarkable to be found anywhere, while his library, along the lines of his profession, was one of the most valuable in the country. During the summer before his death, he had spent three months in England and Belgium, studying the early English styles of furniture from the original models in the old cathedrals, castles and out-of-the-way places, so many of which have since been destroyed in the great war. On Jan. 24, 1910, he left Grand Rapids for a vacation trip to Mexico, and was joined at New York City by John M. L. Touse, of the Furniture World of New York, and John H. Young, the noted New York artist, sailing on the Merida, of the Ward Line, for Vera Cruz, an eight-day journey. They left the boat at Progresso, and from there went to Merida, the capital of Yucatan, and spent a week studying the ruins of an ancient civilization and taking photographs. From Merida Mr. Kendall wrote four letters to his wife, stating that he was in good health and enjoying the trip. He left for Mexico City, Feb. 12, and Feb. 16 Mrs. Kendall received a telegram stating that he was ill, but that he had a good physician and would leave the next day for San Antonio. He died that evening just as he was about to go to the Texas city. Mr. Kendall was rather exclusive in his friendship, but those to whom he gave his confidence found him an intensely interesting man. A close student of art, he gave every encouragement to the young people of Grand Rapids who were of that turn of mind. In the amateur artists' exhibit, held not long before his death, at the Ryerson public library, he was one of the judges, and many of the young people will cherish the warm words of encouragement which he gave them as they continue to mount the steps of progress in their profession. Fraternally, he was affiliated with Doric Lodge No. 342, F. & A. M., which still possesses a gavel made of olive wood which Mr. Kendall brought from the Holy Land, and Columbian Chapter No. 132, R. A. M. It is a fact that has been sincerely regretted that Mr. Kendall did not live to carry out his intention to write a book on furniture designing and making in the United States, for which he had accumulated much material, and which would no doubt have been a valuable addition to the world's literature on these subjects. Mr. Kendall was married, first on July 24, 1882, at Fargo, N. D., to Miss Delle Colby, daughter of Lorenzo and Esther Colby. His second marriage occurred at Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 5, 1900, when he was united with Miss Helen Miller, daughter of James and Mary Ada Miller. He had no children. Mrs. Kendall survives him and resides at No. 145 Fountain street, N. E., Grand Rapids. The following tribute was paid to Mr. Kendall by Dr. Louis Barth, who, perhaps more than any person outside Mr. Kendall's own family, knew

Hosted by Google

the man whose genius swayed the furniture industry, even though it gained him little recognition. This tribute, which first appeared in the Grand Rapids Evening Press, was born of intimate knowledge, vast appreciation and profound respect: "David Wolcott Kendall was a man of purposeful thoroughness. He had no patience nor time for half knowledge and he abhorred all sham and everything superficial. He was a man of moral and physical courage, modest and unassuming. Ever anxious to study and improve himself, not so much for the honor it might mean or the financial return that might be involved, as for the great satisfaction he derived in increasing his great store of knowledge and in knowing and doing well everything with which he concerned himself. Great as was his success along the line of the industry to which he principally was devoted, to my mind David Kendall's personality was his greatest asset. He was fundamentally fair and square in all his ideals and his business and home associations. Measured by one of the greatest tests of human nature, he was a man of great breadth, character and justice. Of him it truthfully may be said that no matter how pronounced his dislike, he always acknowledged all good and gave full credit to his enemies. He was seldom understood, and, considering the charm of his personality, made comparatively few friends. His brain seemed to work too fast for adequate expression. Ideas came more rapidly than he could frame them into words. He was a mental giant who delighted to put himself to the extremest tests, and never, to the very end, was there the slightest dimunition of his inbred thirst for new and greater knowledge. It was his artist's idea for harmonious color schemes that evolved the so-called Sixteenth Century finish and the Early English. He evolved the color finishes now so popular in high grade furniture. When David Wolcott Kendall began as a designer it was with the understanding that he learn the furniture industry from the saw-mill through every practical grade. While he worked as an apprentice at Rochester he studied art, mechanical drawing, sculpture and modeling. He began upon just the broad foundation that would have delighted his matured later day ideas. At the Phoenix, where the designing would occupy most men's entire time and thought, David Kendall was designer as well as general manager and treasurer. He was an infallible judge of human nature. He picked up more than one young man from a machine or the bench and started him upon his life career. To those who knew him, who had time to learn from observation all the intricate, interesting angles of his remarkable personality, his ability seemed without limit. And when David Wolcott Kendall tenderly was borne to the grave, death had claimed another of earth's geniuses. His name will be remembered in the history of furniture as long as Edison's in the history of electricity, Marconi's in telegraphy, or Lister's in medicine."

Thomas J. Keney.—The automobile industry has attracted many men from other fields of endeavor during recent years, but all have not had the capability to make a success of this difficult specialized work. Thomas J. Keney, however, has applied himself to his new vocation with such earnestness and energy that within three years he has built up a business as agent and garage owner at Sand Lake that compares favorably with most of the agencies in the larger cities. Formerly a farmer, he recognized the possibilities in the automobile

Hosted by Google

business, but it was not until 1915 that he was ready to make such a decided change in his vocation. He is one of the useful citizens of his part of the county, having served in various public offices, and at this time is game warden of his district and a member of the local board of school directors. Mr. Keney was born Dec. 12, 1869, in Newaygo county, Michigan, where his father was one of the leading agriculturists. The latter was a native of Michigan, as was also his wife, Mary (Byrnes) Keney, daughter of John Byrnes, a farmer. The following children were in the family: John B., deceased, who was a farmer; Margaret, wife of H. B. Hardman, an auctioneer; Anna, deceased; Edward, who is engaged in farming; Emma, deceased; Thomas J., of this notice, and Mary Lizzie, deceased. Thomas J. Keney received a public school education and was reared to agricultural pursuits, which he adopted as his vocation when he entered life upon his own account. He continued as a farmer until 1915, and through industry and good management made a success of his operations, but in the year mentioned disposed of a part of his holdings and moved to Sand Lake, where he opened an automobile garage and sales-room. He had made a careful study of his proposed venture before entering upon it, and was therefore able at once to assume the duties dependent upon successful participation therein, and from its inception his business has been a paying one. He handles the Oakland cars, carries a large line of accessories, and has his establishment fully equipped to meet the needs of motorists, whether in the way of housing, new parts or repairs. Mr. Keney's business reputation is an excellent one and he stands high in the esteem of his business associates. He has been prominent in public affairs, as before noted, having filled various township offices while living on his farm, was for four years postmaster at Hall Grove, has for the past eighteen years been a notary public, and at present is school director and game warden of the Sand Lake district. His public service has been characterized by expeditious and conscientious handling of his duties, and he has thus won public confidence in a large degree. His political beliefs make him a Democrat. Mr. Keney married Sarah Nihill, also a native of Michigan, born on the same date as her husband. Three children have been born of this union: Mabel, a graduate of the high school and the State Normal school, who has been a teacher; Verona, a graduate of the same schools, and Mary, who was in the twelfth grade at the Cedar Springs high school when compelled to give up her studies temporarily because of illness.

James Kennedy.—The list of representative farmers of Gaines township would be incomplete if the name of James Kennedy were not included. He has been a resident of this township for more than a half a century, and at the present time is owner of the family homestead, a tract of 320 acres, located in section 14, which he acquired by purchase in 1911, and which is now one of the handsome and productive farms of this part of Kent county. Mr. Kennedy's entire life has been passed in the pursuits of the soil, and the success which has rewarded his operations entitles him to be named as one of the skilled and progressive men of his calling. Born in Ireland, April 17, 1852, Mr. Kennedy was an infant in arms when his parents, James and Eliza (Jameson) Kennedy, came to the United States in the fall of 1852. The first family settlement was in Pennsylvania, in which state

Hosted by Google

they resided for some fourteen years, the father there following the trade of carpenter, which he had learned in his native Erin. He was of an ambitious nature and desirous of owning a home of his own, and April 17, 1866, came to Gaines township, where he bought the partly-cleared farm of D. H. Waters, a tract of 160 acres. Here he completed the clearing, put the land under a high state of cultivation, and in later years added 160 acres to his original purchase. His energy and good management were rewarded by the securing of a valuable farm and in the last few years of his life he retired from active labor and made his home at Caledonia, where he passed away, as did also his wife. They were members of the Presbyterian church. Mr. Kennedy was a Democrat and took some active participation in township affairs, although his only public office was that of school director. He was a man of sterling traits of character and his fair dealing and absolute integrity made his name an honored one upon commercial paper, while his associates respected him because he would never stoop to take an unfair advantage. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, as follows: Mary, deceased wife of John Clingman; Esther, wife of Robert Carson; James; Jennie, deceased wife of Franklin Heaney, also deceased; Robert, of Chicago, Ill.; Elizabeth, wife of Daniel Good, of Buffalo, N. Y.; and Joseph E., of New York City. James Kennedy, the younger, acquired a district school education in Pennsylvania and Michigan, and in the latter state early became one of his father's assistants in the cultivation of the home property. He remained with the elder man until the latter's retirement, at which time he took over the management of the home farm of 320 acres, although it was not until 1911 that he became sole possessor of this tract by virtue of purchase from the other heirs to the estate. As a practical adherent of modern methods of farming he has made a success of his operations, which have been general in character, and since he has become the owner of the land he has succeeded in adding to its value, both through an increase in productiveness and through the erection of new buildings and the installing of modern improvements. In the community in which he has resided for so long he is known as a man of affairs, whose interest is quickly enlisted in movements of a progressive nature, and who is liberal in his support of these enterprises. He has discharged the duties of citizenship by serving as township assessor and school director, as well as in other ways. His political support is given to the men and measures put forward by the Democratic party, with which he has voted since coming of age. With his family, he belongs to the Presbyterian church. Mr. Kennedy was married, Feb. 9, 1881, to Agnes S., daughter of Edward and Marguerite (Dunn) Monseau, the father being a native of Canada, and of this union have been born children as follows: Edward J., a merchant of Bellfry, Mont., who married Helen Jenness and has one child, Lillian; Harry, who resides at home; Thomas A., his father's assistant on the home farm, who is married and has three children—William, Charlotte and Marcella; Herbert, who is in the naval rifle range of the United States army; Clive and Marguerite, at home; and Paul F., who is also in the naval rifle range of the United States army.

David Kinsey.—Among the men who came early to Kent county and during many years were engaged in agricultural operations here,

Hosted by Google

one who is still remembered as an industrious and honorable citizen was the late David Kinsey, whose advent in Caledonia township occurred in 1855. Mr. Kinsey's life was devoted to the pursuits of the soil and his success in his chosen vocation came as a result of close application to the management of his interests, yet he found time to serve his community in a number of official capacities and gave to the performance of his duties therein his conscientious attention, so that his contribution to his locality's welfare entitled him to recognition among the representative men of his day. David Kinsey was born at Dumfries, Canada, Aug. 22, 1830, son of Jacob and Susan (Stauffer) Kinsey, farming people, who migrated from Canada to the United States about the year 1845 and, locating in the locality of Gaines, Genesee county, bought unimproved land at $1.25 per acre. Their first home was a small cabin, built of planks, but as the years passed and they cleared and cultivated their property and received remuneration from its products, they were enabled to install improvements and to erect more commodious buildings, and their last years were passed in the comforts acquired during their long period of industry. David Kinsey received his education in the public schools of Canada and at Gaines, and as a young man learned the trade of carpenter. This vocation occupied his attention until his marriage, at the age of twenty-five years, when he came to Caledonia township, Kent county, and purchased a small tract of land, upon which he began his operations. Being of an industrious nature, thrifty, energetic and with much native ability, he soon was able to add to his holdings, which increased to such an extent during his lifetime that he became known as one of the substantial men of his community. He continued as an active farmer until a few weeks prior to his death, which occurred on his farm, in May, 1892. In politics Mr. Kinsey was a Democrat and an active worker in the ranks of his party. Held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens, who recognized his ability and knew from experience of his integrity and personal probity of character, he was frequently called upon to serve in offices of responsibility in his township, and during the latter years of his life was almost continually the incumbent of one or another township position. Mr. Kinsey was married, Oct. 9, 1855, to Nancy, daughter of Nicholas and Marie (Reipsaw) Pletzer, natives of Germany. Mr. Pletzer, who was a weaver in his native land, adopted farming as his vocation after coming to America and passed the last years of his life in Canada, where both he and Mrs. Pletzer passed away, being buried in the cemetery at Goderich. Mrs. Kinsey, who was born May 14, 1839, still survives her husband and makes her home on the farm, which is situated in section 29, Caledonia township. They were the parents of the following children: Matilda, wife of Isaac Wade, of Caledonia; Charles, who is successfully engaged in general merchandising at that place; Owen, deceased; Ada, deceased wife of the late George Caukins, who was a jeweler at Grand Rapids; Jennie, wife of Albert Center, proprietor of a boot and shoe establishment on Monroe street, Grand Rapids; and James, of Seney, Mich. Mrs. Kinsey has been a resident of Kent county for many years, has seen many changes take place in the community to which she came as a young married woman, and is one of the best known and mostly highly respected residents of Caledonia township, where she has many sincere friends, attracted to

Hosted by Google

her by her many admirable qualities of mind and heart. She has six grandchildren: Ada, born to her daughter Matilda Wade, and now the wife of Kenneth Spooner, of Alberta, Canada; Minor and Rhea L., born to her son Charles; Genevieve and David, born to her daughter, Mrs. Ada Caukins; and Doyle, son of her daughter, Mrs. Jennie Center.

Gilbert Klingman.—Contrary belief notwithstanding, there are as a class no more intelligent and far-seeing business men in the country than those to be found in the farming communities. The life of the agriculturist is exacting in that he may not choose his own times or his own seasons for exertion, Nature adjusting such matters, but it is not likely that any other occupation gives such lavish rewards for labor expended. When a farmer successfully produces large crops he may be called a capable husbandman, but when he also is able to profitably handle the yield of his fertile fields for himself, he is entitled to be considered a man of excellent business capacity. A well known citizen who has achieved much both as an agriculturist and business man and who is worthily representative of the most progressive class of Kent county's farming element, is Gilbert Klingman, of Gaines township. Mr. Klingman has passed his entire life in the community in which he now makes his home and where the family has resided for some sixty-four years. He has a wide acquaintance in the locality and is accounted a man of absolute integrity and good citizenship. Born on the home farm in Gaines township, Aug. 1, 1875, Mr. Klingman is a son of David and Catherine (Huff) Klingman, honored people of their locality, both of whom are now deceased. David Klingman was a native of Ohio and was little more than a child when he came to Kent county, locating in Gaines township, May 11, 1854, when the greater part of this section was still wild land with its development and promise all in the future. He decided on a venture in agriculture and purchased 160 acres of green land, on which the timber stood so thickly that not only were there no roads but he was compelled to clear a space in the forest on which to build his first rude log home. Following this, he experienced the usual vicissitudes, hardships and disappointments of the pioneer, but his faith was strong, his spirit buoyant and his self-reliance and confidence steady and unbending, and he won through to a well-earned success. Later in life he replaced his first little home with one of a more substantial and commodious character, completed the clearing off of his land, and was able to spend his last years in comfort surrounded by the conveniences and amidst the leisure that his earlier years had never known. Mr. Klingman was highly esteemed in his community and had many friends. Politically he was a Republican. There were three boys in the family: John, of Lake Odessa, Mich., who has a daughter Eliza; Frank, engaged in farming in Gaines township; and Gilbert, of this review. Gilbert Klingman was educated in the public schools of Gaines township and was reared as a farmer, a vocation to which he has devoted his career. At the time of his father's death, he and his brother Frank took over the home property, which they have continued to operate as general farmers, and on which they have added many improvements. Gilbert Klingman has never married. He is known as an able farmer and a man well versed in business ways, and

Hosted by Google

as a citizen who is public-spirited but who has confined his interest in politics and civic affairs to supporting good men and beneficial measures.

Stuart E. Knappen, of the firm of Kleinhans, Knappen & Uhl, of Grand Rapids, has long been a prominent figure at the bar of Kent county. Born at Hastings, Mich., Aug. 30, 1877, Mr. Knappen is a son of Judge Loyal Edwin and Amelia I. (Kenyon) Knappen. He comes of good Revolutionary fighting stock, both of his paternal great-great-grandfathers having fought in the struggle for the winning of American independence. His great-grandfather, the Rev. Mason Knappen, was born during the period of the Revolution, removing to Michigan in 1836. His paternal grandparents were Edwin and Sarah M. (Nevins) Knappen, natives of Vermont, and as children removed to Michigan with their parents. Judge Loyal Edwin Knappen was born at Hastings, Mich., Jan. 27, 1854, and in 1873 graduated in the literary department of the University of Michigan with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, three years later receiving his Master's degree. He was admitted to the bar, in 1875, and entered upon a career in which he gained high honors and a lasting reputation as one of the most brilliant and distinguished of Grand Rapids' attorneys. He has been judge of the United States Court of Appeals since 1908. Judge Knappen was married, Oct. 23, 1876, to Amelia I. Kenyon, of Hastings, Mich., and they became the parents of three children: Stuart E., Fred M., and Florence, who is now Mrs. Arthur D. Perry, of Grand Rapids. Stuart E. Knappen attended the public schools of Grand Rapids, following which he enrolled in the literary department of the University of Michigan, graduating in 1898, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Thereafter he continued the study of law, and when admitted to the bar, in 1900, began practice with his father's firm, that of Taggart, Knappen & Denison. In 1899 the firm became Wanty & Knappen, and in the following year Knappen & Kleinhans, which was succeeded, in 1902, by Knappen, Kleinhans & Knappen, this style continuing until the elder man's elevation to the United States bench in 1906. The firm of Kleinhans & Knappen then came into existence, and continued until 1910, when the partnership was augmented by the entrance of Marshall M. Uhl. The business carried on is that of a wide general practice, and the firm has been identified with much exceptionally important litigation. Mr. Knappen is a member of the American Bar Association, and the state and local associations. His connection with a number of public-spirited movements has stamped him as a helpful and energetic citizen. He is a director in several financial institutions. Mr. Knappen was married, Nov. 5, 1902, to Edna, daughter of John E. Pilcher, of St. Louis, Mo., and they had three children: Mary E., Jane and Elizabeth. Mrs. Knappen died, Feb. 2, 1913, and Mr. Knappen was again married, Jan. 12, 1916, to Claire, daughter of Judge M. L. Vesey, of Memphis, Tenn.

Martin Koning.—Not a few of the younger element in the agricultural districts of Kent county are living on farms which were formerly owned and occupied by their fathers, and in this class is found Martin Koning, whose well cultivated property is located in section 3, Gaines township, on the Caledonia rural route. This young farmer has, within the space of a few short years, established him-

Hosted by Google

self firmly as one of the progressive and energetic men of his locality, a student of his vocation, and a useful factor in the civic life of the community. He was born on a farm in Paris township, Kent county, Michigan, Oct. 30, 1884, his parents being John and Sarah (Schram) Koning. He is of Holland extraction, his father having come from the Netherlands, his native country, in young manhood and first settled in Illinois. There he lived for several years, in a colony of his own people, but, not making the desired progress, came to Michigan and first took up his residence at Grand Rapids. He was without capital, but possessed the determination to succeed and his willingness to accept whatever kind of honorable employment presented itself enabled him to lay away a small sum of money, which he finally invested in a farm in Paris township, the one upon which his son, Martin, was born. This he brought under cultivation and sold to advantage, and then bought eighty acres in Gaines township. He continued to be energetic and industrious, and, having supreme faith in his adopted community and a willingness to demonstrate his belief, added to his holdings from time to time, so that when he was ready to retire from active labor he was possessor of 126 acres. Mr. Koning was a man of sterling rectitude of character and won the respect and esteem of his fellow-citizens by reason of his straightforward dealings and honorable principles. He was a stalwart Republican in his political views, and although he did not care for public office took an interest in matters which affected his community. His religious faith was that of the Reformed church, of which he was a regular attendant. Mr. and Mrs. Koning were the parents of the following children: Sidney, a resident and engaged in business at Chicago, Ill.; Cornelius lives at McBain, Mich.; Abbie, wife of Charles London, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Nellie, wife of Jake Ritzema; Jennie, wife of Ben Turbungar; Martin, of this notice; Charles, a resident of Gaines township, where he is engaged in farming; and John and Denny, residents of Grand Rapids. Martin Koning received his education in the district schools of Paris and Gaines townships and was reared on the home farm, where he was well trained in all the details that assist to make a man a successful agriculturist. Accordingly, when his father died, he was able to take up the work where the elder man had laid it down, and for several years he farmed the land for his mother, from whom he also rented for two years. Finally, he purchased the farm, and since that time has carried on operations on his own account. He is a general farmer, raising all the standard crops, and also does a little dairying and stock-raising, although these are side lines. He uses the most modern approved methods and the latest machinery, and the success which he has attained would seem to indicate that his methods are correct. Mr. Koning is a Republican and has served Kent county in the capacity of deputy sheriff. While he has few interests beyond those of his farm and his home, he has assisted to support several public-spirited movements for civic betterment. Mr. Koning was married, March 15, 1906, to Jennie, daughter of Hiram Morthous, of Kent county, and they have a son, John Nelson.

Mrs. Cynthia L. (Wells) Konkle.—Among the old and honored residents of Kent county, few have resided within the limits of this county for a longer period than has Mrs. Cynthia L. (Wells) Konkle,

Hosted by Google

whose home is now at Caledonia. Coming to this part of the state in 1840, as a child of seven years, she has watched the growth and development of Kent during more than three-quarters of a century, and has shared in the progress and prosperity that has come to this region, while at the same time winning a place in the respect, affection and veneration of the people among whom she has lived so long. Mrs. Konkle was born March 31, 1833, in Madison county, New York, daughter of Robert and Laura (Richardson) Wells, natives of that county. Her father, a blacksmith by trade, brought his family to Plainfield, Kent county, in 1840, and during a long period of years was the proprietor of the village 'smithy and a man known for his physical prowess, his rugged honesty and his sterling citizenship. In the latter years of his life he was able to retire upon a competence fairly earned through a long life of honest labor. He was a Republican in politics and a sturdy member of the Baptist church. There were twelve children in the family: Wealthy, deceased; Cynthia L.; Mary, a resident of Grand Rapids; Robert De Los, deceased; Arvilla and Arvil, twins, the former deceased and the latter a resident of California; Harriet, whose home was at Boston, Mass., died June 23, 1918; George, deceased, who was for twenty-one years a member of the police force of Grand Rapids; Clark, deceased; Sarah, of Belmont, Mich.; Emma J., who makes her home with her sister, Cynthia L., at Caledonia, and Ida Laura, of Belmont, Mich. Cynthia L. Wells was educated in the public schools of Plainfield, Mich., where she grew to healthy young womanhood, being reared in a family where honesty and industry were considered among the finest things of life. She was married Dec. 31, 1855, to Aaron Konkle, who was born Sept. 2, 1820, in Pennsylvania, son of Abraham and Catherine (Dreisbaugh) Konkle, natives of the Keystone state. Mr. Konkle's parents came to Kent county, Michigan, in 1839, and for some years Abraham Konkle was engaged in lumbering, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits, and during the final years of his life lived in retirement. There were eleven children in the Konkle family: Aaron, Robert, Hollis, Eliza, Franklin and Timothy, all of whom are deceased; Phineas, a resident of Hastings, Mich., and the only survivor, and Amos, Mary, Louisa, and Amanda, deceased. Aaron Konkle received a public school education in Pennsylvania, and as a youth learned the trade of stone-mason, which he followed until coming to Michigan at the age of nineteen years. Here he entered the lumber business with his father and gradually developed into a good businss man, being the builder of the handle factory at Caledonia, which he operated for upwards of forty years. He was a man of industry, foresight and much business acumen, and built up and maintained a reputation for sterling rectitude of character and for honorable methods in his dealings with his fellow-men. When he reached advanced years he retired from active affairs, turning over his business to younger shoulders, and from that time lived quietly and in comfort at his home at Caledonia, where he passed away, July 21, 1906, being laid to rest in the Fulton Street cemetery, at Grand Rapids. Mr. Konkle was a faithful member of the Lutheran church. A Democrat in politics, he was very active in the ranks of his party, and for four years served acceptably in the capacity of postmaster at Caledonia. As a citizen he took part in the enterprises fostered with the idea of

Hosted by Google

adding to his community's prestige and to the welfare of its people, and in various ways proved himself a helpful and valuable member of society. Mr. and Mrs. Konkle were the parents of three children: Katherine makes her home with her mother, and Blanche and Hallie are deceased. Mrs. Konkle, although advanced in years, is still alert and active, taking a keen interest in the busy life going on about her, with faculties unimpaired. It has been granted to her to have seen far more of the development of this region than the ordinary individual, and her reminiscences of the early days of the country are both interesting and instructive. In the community in which she has lived so many years she has the love and affection of her many friends and the sincere regard of her numerous acquaintances.

Chauncey E. Koon, M. D.—Unlike many men who have made the medical profession the medium of their life work, Chauncey E. Koon, M. D., now a veteran physician of Grand Rapids, did not enter into the ranks of his calling in the enthusiasm of untried youth. On the contrary he was a man of mature years and experience, who had been tested in the battles of war and the conflicts of peace, ere he became aware of the talents that were to lead him to an honored place in the medical fraternity. To his vocation he brought sound principles and a mind fully matured, a knowledge of life's responsibilities and duties, and out of the knowledge he had gained he developed faculties and qualities that have since made him a thorough master of his profession. Dr. Koon was born in Steuben county, New York, Oct. 1, 1843, a son of Allason Elias and Marilla (Wells) Koon. His father was a blacksmith and farmer who came to Hillsdale county, Michigan, when the son was a lad and there his education was secured in the public schools. He was still working on the home farm when the Civil war came on, and with patriotic spirit joined Company B, Eleventh Michigan infantry, Aug. 24, 1861. With this organization he served three years and twenty days. Enlisting as a private, he was promoted to sergeant, later to orderly sergeant, and then commissioned second lieutenant, first lieutenant, and finally captain, receiving his last-named commission from Governor Blair as the youngest commissioned captain in the Michigan troops. He fought bravely and faithfully in the ranks of the Union army, and when his military service was completed returned to Michigan, ready to take up the duties of peace with a better understanding of life and what it meant. For a few years he was employed as a traveling salesman, but in 1870 went to Lisbon, Mich., to accept a position in the drug store which was conducted by his brother, and it was while there that he decided to enter the medical profession. After some preparatory study, he entered the University of Michigan for one course of lectures, and then went to Northwestern University, where he completed a full course and was graduated with the class of 1873, receiving his degree of Doctor of Medicine. During the following twenty-four years Dr. Koon practiced at Casnovia, Mich., where he built up a large practice, but in 1898 changed his scene of practice to Grand Rapids, where he was associated with his son, Dr. T. M. Koon, father and son continuing together until the latter's death, Oct. 10, 1915. Dr. Koon still remains in practice, one of the most honored physicians of Kent county, with a large and representative clientele. He has been a member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State

Hosted by Google

Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and for eight years was a medical examiner in the pension department at White Cloud. For three years he was commander of Casnovia Post, Grand Army of the Republic, was one year medical director of that organization, and still retains his membership therein, delighting in the camp-fires of his old comrades of the army days who are now so rapidly passing away. Politically, the Doctor is a Republican, and his fraternal connection is with the Masons. Dr. Koon was married to Miss Rebecca S. Clark, daughter of William Clark, of Bloomington, Ind., and they had two children: William A., now an attorney of Minneapolis; and Dr. Thomas M., deceased.

John Korybalski.—Cosmopolitan in character, and possessing much that is metropolitan in appearance, Grand Rapids numbers among its most honored and most eminent citizens many of those who are descendants of Poland. In this class is found John Korybalski, one of the younger generation of banking men of the city, who, starting his career as a messenger boy at a tender age, has so well improved his opportunities and accepted his chances that today he occupies the position of manager of Branch C of the City Trust & Savings Bank. Although he has reached an age when most men are merely getting settled in their stride, Mr. Korybalski has already had much experience in several fields of endeavor, in which he has shown his worth and gained a satisfying measure of success. He was born at Grand Rapids, June 24, 1887, son of Joseph and Pauline (Frankowski) Korybalski, natives of Poland who came to the United States in 1880 and located at Grand Rapids, where the father is now foreman at the plant of the City Ice & Coal Company, the mother having died June 1, 1903. She was a member of St. Adelbert's Catholic church, to which belongs also Mr. Korybalski, who is likewise a member of the Polish National Alliance of North America and the Polish National Benevolent Aid Society of Grand Rapids. John Korybalski was educated in the parochial schools of Grand Rapids, immediately after leaving which he showed his youthful industry and ambition by securing a position as a messenger boy for the Western Union Telegraph Company. His energy and fidelity won him promotion to the position of clerk with the same concern, with which he remained in all for about one and one-half years, his next connection being with the Hart Mirror Plate Glass Company, with which he continued two years. About this time he decided he needed some further training and accordingly spent one year in study at the McLachlan Business College. He was next with the Grand Rapids Brush Company for one year, and for three months worked in a real estate and insurance office, but resigned his position to take a clerical post in the city treasurer's office, where he was employed for four years. At that time Mr. Korybalski embarked in the real estate and insurance business on his own account, but July 11, 1915, was induced to accept the managership of the C branch of the City Trust & Savings Bank, with which institution he has since been identified. Mr. Korybalski is a young man of energetic spirit and great industry, capable in the handling of business and financial affairs and with an excellent standing in the confidence of his associates and superiors, as well as of the public. His hard and energetic work has done much to extend the business of the institution with which he is connected.

Hosted by Google

He is a Republican in his political adherence and belongs to St. Isadore's Catholic church. Mr. Korybalski was married June 15, 1910, to Anna, daughter of Anthony and Josephine (Jesion) Alexandrowicz, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born two children—Edward, deceased, and Edmund John.

William Kramer.—In some men the business sense is remarkably developed, and through it they reach a success not achieved by those who endeavor to control affairs for which they have little aptitude. It is now generally recognized that no individual reaches a full measure of success who works against his natural inclinations, and when competition is so strenuous men need every assistance that developed talent can give in order to take profitable advantage of offered opportunities and to be able to develop legitimate business chances. Especially is this true at Grand Rapids, where, although the field is broad, competition is exceedingly keen, and he who distances others must be on a constant strain in the race of life. Such a man was the late William Kramer, whose activities in commercial affairs during a period of thirty-eight years made his name well known in Grand Rapids business circles. Mr. Kramer was born in Hesse Cassel, Germany, Nov. 18, 1839, son of Karl and Wilhelmina Kramer. He was educated in the public schools and given ordinary advantages in other ways, but when he came to the United States, in 1861, he had little beside his ambition and industry to serve as capital for his start in the new world. While residing in New York City, where he lived for four years, he was given his introduction to American business methods and customs in the dry goods establishment of a Mr. Neuberg, and when he came to Grand Rapids, in 1865, he became connected with the Houseman Clothing House. Later he received still further training with Meeker & McConnell, and in 1865 decided to venture his carefully saved earnings in an enterprise of his own. He accordingly established a modest dry goods house, which, under his honorable methods and excellent management, developed into a successful commercial house, of which he remained the head until his death, Nov. 4, 1903. Cordial, sympathetic and broad in his views, Mr. Kramer was a man who made and retained many friends, and his competitors recognized his sterling worth and gave him credit for the unflinching integrity that would not permit him to stoop to any mean action. His death occasioned deep regret among his social and business acquaintances. He was a Mason and belonged to several social organizations, among them the Turnverein and the Arbeiter Verein. In political matters he was always a Republican. Mr. Kramer married, April 4, 1871, Sophia, daughter of Herman and Elizabeth (Becker) Loettgert, of Grand Rapids, and of this union were born four children: Elizabeth and Wilhelmina, deceased; Frederick, a business man of Grand Rapids, and Karl, who died in 1903. Mrs. Kramer was born in Germany, but was reared and educated near Detroit and at Grand Rapids. The family came to the United States in 1856, settling in the vicinity of Detroit, where Mr. Loettgert followed farming until his death, in 1864, in which year his widow and children came to Grand Rapids. Mrs. Kramer is one of the well known ladies of her part of the city and occupies a pleasant home at 1237 Lake Drive.

Hosted by Google

Arthur E. Kusterer.—Grand Rapids figures as one of the most attractive, progressive and prosperous communities of the State of Michigan, justly claiming a high order of citizenship and a spirit of enterprise which is certain to conserve consecutive development in the material upbuilding of the city. In this development, civic, business and personal interests are affected by many factors, one of the most important of which is that represented by the investment banking and brokerage business. In this field it is necessary that there be men of judgment and foresight, in order that the communities investing capital can be placed in a legitimate manner and that it not be diverted from the channels that make for strength and stability in our institutions. Of the men engaged in this line of business at Grand Rapids, one who has met with success is Arthur E. Kusterer, president of the firm of Kusterer, Hilliker & Perkins. He is still numbered among the younger business men of the city, but has already made a name and reputation for himself in his chosen field. Mr. Kusterer was born at Grand Rapids, April 4, 1883, son of Charles F. Kusterer. He was educated in the graded and high schools of the city and at the University of Michigan, in which institution he was graduated in 1905, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. After graduating he returned to Grand Rapids to enter his present field, the investment banking and brokerage business. The first five years were spent in the employ of local investment banking firms, after which the investment banking firm of A. E. Kusterer & Company was formed, which was succeeded after several years by Kusterer, Hilliker & Perkins, of which firm he is president. He has been a participant in a remarkable success that has attended this firm's operations and has qualified unreservedly as a business man of marked energy, great capacity and thorough knowledge in his special line. In the affairs of the nation, as expressed by political matters, Mr. Kusterer is a non-partisan voter, and in local matters he is guided by the man rather than the party, preferring to use his own judgment rather than to follow blindly the choice of the organization. He belongs to the Park Congregational church, and his social connections include membership in the Peninsular club and the Kent Country club. Mr. Kusterer was married, Oct. 3, 1908, to Miss Emma Foss, daughter of Willis O. Foss, of Auburn, Me., and of this union have been born two children, twins—Virginia and Elizabeth.

Christoph Kusterer.—Each individual is called upon to work out his destiny according to his own ideas. Some make a success of their life efforts, while others fail; but it is usually found that the men who attain the most are those who concentrate along a given line of endeavor and direct all their energies toward its successful prosecution. In the case of the late Christoph Kusterer, his record shows that he was a man who thoroughly understood his business and was never afraid of the hard work connected with it. As a result, he built up one of Grand Rapids' large industries and left his family not only wealth, but the heritage of a good name and the memory of a kind husband and father. For years he was one of the substantial men of Grand Rapids and the city benefitted by his connection with it, for he was a practical business man who believed in action rather than words. Mr. Kusterer was born May 24, 1824, in Wurttemburg, Germany, where his father owned a large estate in the

Hosted by Google

Black Forest, and his education was secured in the nearby town of Freudenstadt, where he also learned the art of brewing. At the age of twenty-two years, having been exempted from military duty, he came to the United States and immediately settled at Ann Arbor, Mich., where he engaged in the tanning business. There he was married, April 12, 1847, to Maria Dorothea Dauble, and in the following September disposed of his interests in the tannery and came to Grand Rapids. Here he bought a one-half interest in the Pannel Brewery, which was located on what is now known as the corner of Lyon street and Bond avenue, and he subsequently bought out Mr. Pannel's interest. In 1850 he built the City Brewery, at the corner of Bridge and Ionia streets, the site where the Grand Rapids Brewing Company is now located, and this was conducted until 1881, when the Kusterer Brewing Company was formed, with Charles F. Kusterer as president and manager. In 1892 this was consolidated with other plants and the Grand Rapids Brewing Company was formed, the other companies being the Tusch Brothers Brewery, the Veit & Rathman Brewery, the Union Brewery of George W. Brandt & Company and the Adolph Goetz Brewery, the brewery of Frey Brothers being subsequently purchased at the administrator's sale. The officers were Charles F. Kusterer, president; Jacob Veit, vice-president; F. A. Tusch, secretary, and C. E. Kusterer, treasurer, and the capital at incorporation was $500,000, which was later increased to $1,000,000. In 1895 a new plant was erected on the same property. The present officials of the company are: G. A. Kusterer, president; F. A. Veit, vice-president and superintendent, and J. F. Cramer, secretary and treasurer. Mr. Kusterer lost his life on the ill-fated "Alpena," while making a business trip to Chicago, and at his death left a widow and eight children. Mr. Kusterer, in all his associations, with friends, business associates and competitors, and the public at large, impressed through a pleasing personality, and was widely respected and esteemed. He was interested in all that pertained to substantial progress in his adopted city, in all the cultural activities and material advancement that have made notable recent years, and, as far as lay within his power, exerted his influence in these directions. The family home for over fifty years was situated at the corner of Ionia avenue and Michigan street, where the present fine Armory is now located.

Fred Lass.—A resident of Michigan and of Kent county for thirty years, and during the greater part of this time engaged in agricultural pursuits, Fred Lass is now accounted one of the substantial citizens of Caledonia township and is granted that respect and esteem that is given only to those who have been the architects of their own fortunes and who have won success solely through the labors of their own hands and the activities of their minds. While the life of Mr. Lass has been one of uninterrupted devotion to his home and its surroundings, with none of the celebrity that comes from prominent participation in the affairs of public service, out of his labor and experience have come the respect of all who know him and a reputation unexcelled as an agriculturist and a citizen. Fred Lass was born, May 11, 1865, in Germany, son of Martin and Anna (Ortmand) Lass, natives of that country, where they lived and died. They were people in modest circumstances, but honest, worthy, in-

Hosted by Google

dustrious and God-fearing, who gave their children all the opportunities they could afford and brought them up with a proper respect for the dignity of labor and the value of honesty. Their children were Mary, Anna, Minnie, Sophia, Caroline, Peter and Fred, of whom Peter is deceased. The youngest of the children of his parents, Fred Lass received his education in the public schools of his native land and there started his career. His ambition was too great to be kept within the bounds of his home environments, for he had heard of the opportunities for advancement to be found in America, and when twenty-two years of age he left Germany and arrived duly in New York, from which city he made his way to Grand Rapids. After a short stay in that city he went to Wyoming township, where for several years he was engaged as a butcher, but finally gave himself whole-heartedly to the vocation of farming and purchased 140 acres in Caledonia township, where he now has an excellent farm in section 8. He started in life with only a good constitution and a resolute determination to get to the front, and his successful career furnishes a strong incentive to the aspiring element of the rising generation to follow his example. Mr. Lass is a man of forceful and strong character and the possessor of more than average business ability, and stands for all that is worthy and practical in agricultural life. His attention has been entirely taken up by his general farming operations and he has had little time for politics, although a stanch supporter of the principles of the Republican party. In religious matters he is a Lutheran and attends services at Holy Corners church, of which Rev. A. W. Hueschner is pastor. Mr. Lass was married first in 1888 to Miss Wilhelmina, daughter of Fred Nagel, a native of Germany, and of this union were born four children: Martin, deceased; Carl, an agriculturist of Calhoun township, married Elna Parsons, and is the father of two children—Burdett, and Donald, deceased; and Clara, deceased. Mr. Lass was again married, Feb. 19, 1897, being united with Emma Conrad, daughter of Godfrey and Freda (Huffman) Conrad, the former of whom died in Germany and the latter now a resident of Grand Rapids, coming to the United States in 1888. Of this union have been born six children, all at home: Margaret, Berenice, Anna, Beatrice, Fred, Jr., and Conrad. The pleasant home of the Lass family is located on Caledonia rural route No. 2.

William R. Laughray.—In the tasks allotted to men's lives, not the least in importance or the most insignificant in their impress upon character and destiny are those who minister to our esthetic natures. There are many diversities of art, wide variations in the play of artistic gifts, and the labors of the individuals who, in instructing the unlearned, make possible the expression of thoughts in a rythmic way, and thus have an established place in the scheme of things. Dancing, at once an art and an amusement, has its devotees by the thousands, and a necessary feature of each community must be its academies where capable instructors initiate these followers into the mysteries of the new steps. In this connection mention should be made of William R. Laughray, proprietor of Laughray's Dancing Academy, which was established at Grand Rapids in 1894 and has grown in importance and popularity with the passing of the years. Professor Laughray was born in Oakland county, Michigan, Nov. 12,

Hosted by Google



William A. Laughray

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

1863, son of Robert and Josephine (Atkinson) Laughray. His father, born at Birmingham, Mich., Sept. 24, 1829, was first a contracting mason and later a general contractor, and as a young man came to Grand Rapids, where he married Miss Atkinson, who was born at Adrian, Mich., July 8, 1839. Mr. Laughray resided at various points in Michigan and was a business man of ability and resource, and one who had the entire and well-merited confidence of his associates. He was a Republican and a Thirty-second degree Mason. He died Oct. 1, 1909, in the faith of the Baptist church, of which Mrs. Laughray, who survives him and lives at Detroit, is a member. They became the parents of the following children: Margaret, born Oct. 9, 1858, died in 1861; Ella May, born at Detroit, June 13, 1860; Robert E., born July 28, 1861, at Detroit; William R.; James W., born May 3, 1868, at Saginaw, Mich., died Aug. 9, 1868; Isabelle, born at Saginaw, Aug. 20, 1869, died Aug. 9, 1870; Joseph E., born at Saginaw, Mich., March 2, 1872, living at Detroit; George F., born at Saginaw, Dec. 7, 1874, died Feb. 15, 1917; Anna Goldie, born at Muskegon, Mich., July 10, 1878, wife of Prof. Lawrence Marshall, superintendent of schools of Cleveland, Ohio; and Josephine Pearl, born at Muskegon, Aug. 5, 1881, wife of Andrew Bendell, of Detroit. William R. Laughray was educated in the public schools of Muskegon, and even in boyhood displayed remarkable musical and terpsichorean talent. He was but a youth when he entered the musical business, and, going to Chicago, Ill., opened a dancing academy, which he conducted for nine years. Returning to Grand Rapids, he here established Laughray's Dancing Academy, in Lockerby Hall No. 2, with the Evening Press, and for nineteen years was an instructor of newsboys. Professor Laughray came to his present location, in the new building at Nos. 16 to 22 Fulton street, West, where he now conducts private lessons and assemblies, in 1915. His institution is a very popular one, both with the younger and older sets, and his classes represent some of the most prominent families of the city. Professor Laughray is a Republican. He belongs to the Christian Science church, and his only fraternal connection is with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

Fred C. Ledger.—The agriculturists of Kent county are as a rule prosperous and contented, living independently upon the fertile farms which have been developed by their energy into valuable tracts of high productiveness. One who has been more than usually successful, and who has also been a factor in the civic life of his community, is Fred C. Ledger, whose 192-acre farm is situated in Nelson and Solon townships. Mr. Ledger was born near Jersey City, N. J., Oct. 28, 1858, son of Fred C. Ledger. The elder man was born in England and emigrated to the United States in young manhood, settling at Jersey City, N. J., where he resided for some years. He died in New Jersey. He and Mrs. Ledger became the parents of five children: Gill, Frank, Lewis, Elizabeth, and Fred C. Fred C. Ledger, the younger, received a common school education in the city of his birth, but as he was ambitious he gave much of his spare time to study after leaving school and as a consequence is today one of the well-informed men of his community. When he started upon his career he chose farming as his vocation, and this occupation he has continued to follow, having won his own way to success without aid or assis-

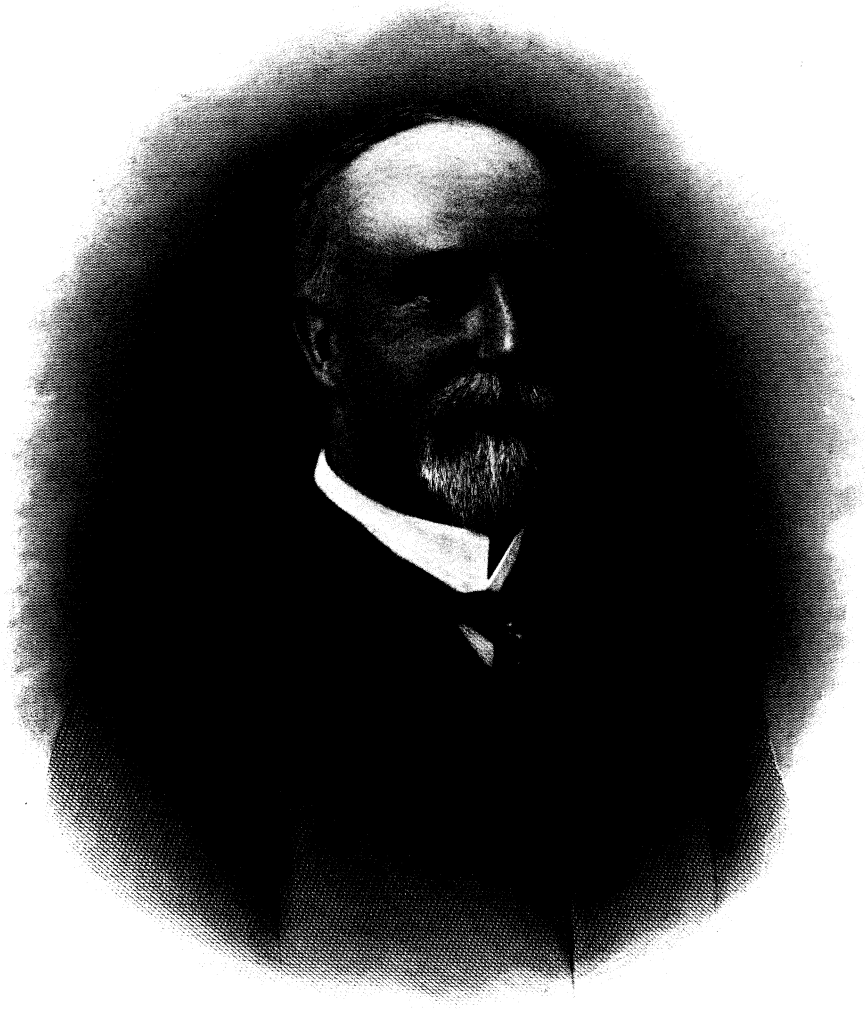
Hosted by Google

tance from outside sources. Also, his success has not been a matter of chance or happy circumstance, for each step in his career has been carefully taken, and all his operations have been directed by sound judgment and an appreciation of possibilities. He came to Kent county in 1876, and at the present writing he is owner of 192 acres of land, of which 112 acres are under a high state of cultivation and producing annually bumper crops. He has devoted himself to general farming principally, although he does some dairying and stock-raising, and in each department has shown skill and a knowledge of conditions and general business. In the development of his farm into one of the model country places of Nelson township, he has brought into play the use of modern machinery and equipment, and his buildings have been erected with an eye to attractiveness and utilization, substantiality and usefulness. While he has been very busily engaged in his private affairs, Mr. Ledger has not neglected his community's interests. In fact he has been one of the most public-spirited and useful citizens of his locality. Always a friend of public education, he has served his township as a member of the board of school directors for twenty-two years, and in addition has been supervisor of Nelson township for three terms in succession and was formerly president of the village of Sand Lake for two terms. His public service has been faithful and efficient, winning him the regard and gratitude of his fellow-citizens. Fraternally, Mr. Ledger belongs to Cedar Springs Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, while his political views make him a Republican. Mr .Ledger married Nellie Ann, daughter of Philip and Mary (Lovell) Smith, one of the old and honored families of Kent county which was founded here by Mr. Smith when this part of the country was still covered by the forests. Mr. and Mrs. Ledger have had the following children: Victor P., engaged in the meat business at Sand Lake, married Mary, daughter of Henry Yoast, and has two children—Philip and Leo, the elder in school; Harry, who is engaged in farming in Nelson township; Bertha, who is the wife of Fred Peck, of Grand Rapids, sales agent for an automobile concern, and has a daughter, Neva Charlotte; Lester, engaged in the meat business at Sand Lake, married Grace Hefler, and Lewis is a pupil in the public school at Sand Lake.

Peter Leestma.—Among the young men who have been selected to superintend its affairs by the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, one whose more than ordinary success is based upon the possession of extended experience, combined with marked inherent ability and sound financial judgment, is Peter Leestma, manager of the Grandville and Cordelia Street Branch. From the time that he entered upon his career after leaving school, Mr. Leestma has been identified with banking affairs, his services having been accepted by several of the city's leading institutions. He was born at Oosterbierem, Province of Friesland, Netherlands, Aug. 19, 1880, son of Peter S. and Rena (Tolsma) Leestma, natives of the same place. In his native land the father was a barber by vocation and later a farmer, and in 1883 brought his family to the United States, first settling in the city of Grand Rapids, where he followed various occupations. In 1889 he went to a farm in the vicinity of Friesland, Mich., and there continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life, his death occurring Dec. 5, 1906. Mrs. Leestma had

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



C. H. Leonard.

Hosted by Google

passed away, April 16, 1905, in the faith of the Reformed church, of which her husband was also a member. They were parents of the following children: Frank, deceased; Bertha, wife of W. Vander Heide, of Grand Rapids; Ren, who lives at Douglas, Mich.; Martin, of Grand Rapids; Elizabeth, wife of J. G. Van Zoeren, of Friesland; Peter, and Bendert, of Chicago, Ill. Peter Leestma was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and Friesland and at McLachlan's Business University, and Jan. 21, 1908, became teller of the State Bank of Michigan, which was located on Wealthy street. On July 1 of the same year the bank consolidated with the Kent County Bank, and Mr. Leestma was connected with the East End Branch of the Kent County Savings Bank until April 5, 1910, when he transferred his services to the Michigan Exchange Bank, a private institution, of which he became assistant cashier. This bank was later purchased by the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, at the time that it assumed control of a number of smaller organizations, and Jan. 1, 1917, Mr. Leestma was appointed to his present position as manager of the Grandville and Cordelia Street Branch of this large institution. Mr. Leestma is known as a young man of unusual banking ability and knowledge, safe in his judgments, correct in his estimates and conservative in his policies. While he has been the incumbent of his present position for only a short time, he has already impressed himself favorably upon the people of the community and has made many warm friends in his new surroundings. Politically he is a Republican. He belongs to the Reformed church, of which he was formerly a trustee for five years, and still remains active in the work of the church, being a teacher in the Sunday school and a member of the Christian Endeavor Society. As a public-spirited citizen, interested in the progress of and advancement of his community, he is acting as treasurer of the Grandville Avenue Improvement Association. Mr. Leestma was married, June 9, 1909, to Gertrude, daughter of Frederick J. and Susanna (Witman) Michmershuizen, of Grand Rapids. They are the parents of two children: Ethel Gertrude, born June 9, 1912, and Harold Frederick, Aug. 9, 1917.

Charles H. Leonard.—The name of Charles H. Leonard has for many years been intimately associated with Grand Rapids history, and to him one of the towering manufacturing houses owes the initial success which has later brought it its country-wide prestige. His activities along manufacturing and other lines have been so well directed and his management of affairs so masterly handled that he is rated among the able business men of today, and has earned the confidence and gratitude of men of high business standing with whom he has been associated. His success has been entirely due to his own ability, and his advance to high position has been steady and continuous. He was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 15, 1847, and is descended from Revolutionary stock, his great-grandfather, Silas Leonard, having served in the Revolutionary war, other forebears who served being William Hincher, Jr., a private in the Brookfield company, Massachusetts militia, and his great-grandfather was Serg. William Hincher, of Col. Job Cushing's Massachusetts regiment. Mr. Leonard's education was received at Grand Rapids, where he was graduated in the Grand Rapids high school with the class of 1866, having taken a classical course. His initial business experience was

Hosted by Google

secured in his father's store, and in 1868 he was admitted as junior partner to the firm of H. Leonard & Sons, dealers in crockery and house furnishing goods. For fourteen years Mr. Leonard continued to devote himself to the business of this concern, but toward the close of that period began to become interested in refrigerators, and finally, in 1882, took out a patent for an improvement thereon, immediately beginning their manufacture on a small scale. Three years of discouragement followed, in which Mr. Leonard lost considerable money, but he had faith in himself and his ideas and eventually success came as a reward for his perseverence and courage. The business began to prosper, many other patents were taken out, and four plants, one after the other, were outgrown by the volume of business that flowed into the concern. The Grand Rapids Refrigerator Company, with a capital stock and surplus of $1,000,000, is a closed corporation, all stock being owned by the family, with Mr. Leonard's son, Harry C., and two sons-in-law, together with his brother, Frank E., members of the company. The Leonard Cleanable Poreclain-lined refrigerators are manufactured at the factory on Clyde Park avenue, which occupies thirteen acres of ground and is the largest plant of its kind in the country. The annual output is approximately $1,250,000, and 500 people are given employment. Mr. Leonard continues as president of the company. The Leonard Cleanable Porcelain-lined refrigerators ness judgment and executive power have strengthened and developed. When the question of a water supply for Grand Rapids was being seriously agitated the interested citizens were divided in opinion between Lake Michigan and Grand River as the source from which to obtain the water. Mr. Leonard opposed the Lake Michigan project, on account of the greater expenditure of money and the danger to the necessary appliances from severe storms and ice floes. He earnestly championed the Grand River proposition, and to that end caused to be constructed a filtration plant to demonstrate its feasibility. The demonstration was so successful that his plan was adopted and the present magnificent filtration plant of the Grand Rapids waterworks system is thus a monument to his genius and loyal interest in civic affairs. He retains his interest in the business of H. Leonard & Sons and has numerous other connections. He is one of the active members of the Chamber of Commerce and has served as a member of the Board of Education, and belongs to the Sons of the American Revolution, being second vice-president of Michigan Chapter, and holding Nos. Michigan 701 and National 36,776. He married Emma J. Carr, daughter of Col. James W. Carr, and of this union were born three children: Harry C., Mrs. Jennie L. Harvey, and Mrs. Jessie L. Whittier.

Frank E. Leonard.—Among the business men of Grand Rapids to whom the community is indebted for its position in the commercial world is he whose name introduces this paragraph. Mr. Leonard was born in Grand Rapids, April 8, 1855, son of Heman Leonard, who is given extended mention on another page of this volume, and to which review citation is made in connection with the mercantile establishment with which Frank E. Leonard has been identified during all of his business career. Mr. Leonard received his education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, finishing in the high school. After leaving school he became identified with the mercantile establishment of his

Hosted by Google



Frank E. Leonard

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

father and by dint of close application and personal initiative he has steadily advanced until he is now the president of the company, known as H. Leonard & Sons. On Oct. 15, 1882, Mr. Leonard was married to Miss Sarah E. Pierce, of Grand Rapids, and of this union were born the following children: Mrs. Evelyn Avery, of Grand Rapids, and Capt. Frank E. Leonard, Jr., now in the ordnance department of the United States army, at Washington, D. C. Mr. Leonard is vice-president of the Grand Rapids Refrigerator Company, a director of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, and chairman of the board of trustees of the Fountain Street Baptist church. He is also a member of the Peninsular and of the Kent Country clubs.

Heman Leonard.—The business men who started operations at Grand Rapids during the '40s have all passed to their final rest. For the most part they were natives of the East who came here with high hopes of winning success in the development that was taking place, and while all did not succeed, the large majority of them deserved to for the courage and resource they displayed in establishing and fostering their various enterprises in what was practically a new community. One of the earliest to arrive, during the early '40s, was the late Heman Leonard, who has now been dead for more than thirty years, but who founded a business that is still one of the most prosperous in its line in the city. He was a native of Parma, N. Y., and as a youth had migrated to the West, first settling at Sturgis, Mich., in which community he worked on a farm and established a home of his own by being married. At the time of his arrival at Grand Rapids, in 1842, he became proprietor of the old Eagle Hotel, a well known hostelry during the early days, but two years later sold out to enter mercantile affairs, establishing a general store at No. 29 Monroe street, where the principal article consisted of crockery, in which a good business was gradually developed through Mr. Leonard's careful management and progressive methods, together with strict honesty and fair dealing. As his three sons—Frank E., Charles H. and Frederick—grew to manhood he admitted them to partnership, and thus came into being the business of H. Leonard & Sons. Mr. Leonard continued to be connected with the business and in its active management until his death, in 1884. He had become at that time well known in business circles, where his name stood for probity and integrity and where his word was considered equal in value to his bond. He was a citizen of the old type, a man who believed that his city should be given his support in needed movements, and in his private life, as in business, his record was beyond reproach. Two years after the elder Leonard's death, it was found that the business needed more room for its proper conduct, and within thirty days after such a decision had been made, the Leonard Block was enlarged and refitted for the increased business. It was a double store building, of four stories, and each floor was occupied with a stock of goods. This store, it may be noted in passing, as a commentary on the firm's progressive methods, was the first in the city to use electricity for lighting purposes. In the meantime, the firm had embarked in the manufacture of refrigerators and had built a factory on the site of the old gas company, at the corner of Ottawa street and the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad. Both lines of business increased to such an extent that the mercantile business was moved to the corner of

Hosted by Google

East Fulton and Commerce streets, and a new factory on Clyde Park avenue was erected for the manufacture of refrigerators. The business, which became exclusively a wholesale house-furnishing goods establishment, is still carried on under the firm style of H. Leonard & Sons, by Charles H. and Frank E. Leonard, capable and substantial business men who are upholding their father's prestige as skillful operators and his reputation for integrity and probity in all the avenues of life.

Jeremiah Lewis.—In order to give adequate expression of the influence which a man exerts over his fellows, it is necessary to review his career in retrospect, after he has passed from daily intercourse with his contemporaries. Judged in such a manner the late Jeremiah Lewis shows up very advantageously, for he was a man of alert capability, who acted from the best motives and faithfully performed whatever duties were laid upon his shoulders. His business associations brought him to Grand Rapids, where for years he was connected with the lumber industry of the city and he assisted in the founding of one of the large companies operating in that commodity. While his death occurred more than thirty years ago, his personality is still of interest as one of the men who assisted in the establishment of Grand Rapids' business prestige. Mr. Lewis was born in Oxford county, Maine, April 6, 1823, son of Theodore and Susan Lewis, the former of whom died March 27, 1865. His education was secured in the public schools, and when still a youth he entered upon his business career by making shook, in which he was engaged until 1873. In that year he came to Grand Rapids and embarked in the lumber business with Constantine Morton, and while engaged in business with that gentleman his death occurred, May 25, 1888. Mr. Lewis' widow took over his interests at that time, and the company continued under the same management until 1895, when the style was changed to the Morton, Lewis & Willey Lumber Company, with headquarters at Bristol, Tenn. The business was operated until 1910, when it went out of existence. Mr. Lewis was a Republican, but was essentially a business man, with little desire for participation in politics or public matters. He is remembered by the older generation as a straightforward, fair-minded man, capable and honorable in business, and faithful in his friendships. He was married, Jan. 3, 1847, to Lucy E., daughter of Thomas and Mary (Stearns) Watson, of Oxford county, Maine, where Mrs. Lewis was born, Feb. 21, 1826, and where she was educated. They became the parents of the following children: Ardelia, the wife of Constantine Morton, of Grand Rapids; Everett P., who resides with his mother; Georgiana, deceased; Ella, wife of W. T. Neeley, of Dalton, Ga.; Drucilla, and Anna, who lives with her mother. Mrs. Lewis is one of Grand Rapids' remarkable old ladies. She is still in good health and spirits and has lived to see a large family of children and grandchildren, as well as great-grandchildren, grow up about her. Her daughter, Mrs. Ardelia Morton, has six children: Nellie L., at home; Katherine, wife of R. M. Crumley, of Bristol, Tenn.; Sadie and Anna, at home; Charles, of Spokane, Wash., and Howard J., of Portland, Ore. Mrs. Ella Neeley is mother of four children: Perley; Harvey, who is married and has four children; Anna, who is the wife of Frank Dowler, of Chattanooga, Tenn., and has two sons—William and Frank, Jr.; and Lewis, of Dalton, Ga., who is married and has a daughter.

Hosted by Google

Frank E. Liverance, Jr., attorney and counselor-at-law, and a widely known solicitor for patents, was for six years an examiner in the United States Patent Office at Washington, D. C. Since 1912, when he became a resident of Grand Rapids, he has materially extended his reputation as a thoroughly reliable solicitor of patents and trade marks, having established not only a good private practice in these lines, but, in view of his ability, has been appointed counsel of several interests whose industries depend largely for their development and permanence on the stability of the patents involved. Mr. Liverance is a native son of Michigan and was born on a farm in Ingham county, Feb. 13, 1883, his parents being Frank E. and May (Barber) Liverance. Frank E. Liverance, the elder, was born in New York State and was ten years of age when he migrated to the West, in 1868, in which year he located in Ingham county and took up his residence with his parents on a farm. Through industry and well directed carrying through of opportunities recognized and grasped, he has won his way to position and a comfortable competence, and he and Mrs. Liverance, who is a native of Ingham county, are now living in comfortable retirement on their handsome country property. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are widely and favorably known in their locality for their many sterling traits of character. Mr. Liverance has taken more than a passing interest in civic affairs, has been a strong factor in the success of the Democratic party in his section, and has served acceptably as a member of the county board of supervisors. In his vocation of agriculturist he has always been progressive and keeps himself fully abreast of the times and the advancements being made by maintaining membership in the Grange and the Gleaners. There were three children in the family; Frank E., Jr.; Wallace B., of Grand Rapids; and Grace Fern, who is the wife of Irwin G. Woodin, of Chicago. Frank E. Liverance, Jr., attended the district schools in the vicinity of his father's farm in Ingham county and passed his boyhood in helping his father and brother with the work connected with the development of the home property. His education was furthered by attendance at the Williamston high school and the Michigan Agricultural college, in which he was graduated in the engineering course with the class of 1906, and his legal studies were prosecuted at the National College of Law, Washington, D. C. While attending that institution and while in the Patent Office, he also studied law under the direction of Frank W. Holt, who now is a primary examiner in the United States Patent Office, and where he secured knowledge, experience and training that have been of the utmost value to him in his chosen line of practice. Mr. Liverance was admitted to the bar in 1910, and two years later came to Grand Rapids, where he engaged in the practice of patent law alone. In June, 1914, he formed a professional partnership with L. V. Moulton, and they now maintain offices in the Houseman building. Mr. Liverance practices in the state courts and in the United States District court. His is a professional field which requires thorough mastery of countless details, mechanical ability of no small order, and intense and continuous application to the entrusted matters, and these qualities he possesses in so positive a degree that his noteworthy success is assured. He belongs to the various organizations of his profession and is represented in fraternal and club life. In

Hosted by Google

political matters he is an independent Democrat, and since coming to Grand Rapids has devoted his energies and capabilities to the establishment of his professional business, and to the complete exclusion of public or political considerations. Mr. Liverance was married, June 16, 1909, to Iris, daughter of James B. and Sarah (Hall) Ennis, of Laurel, Md. They have two children: Mary and Robert E.

Frederick W. Loettgert.—During the many years that the late Frederick W. Loettgert was engaged in business activities at Grand Rapids he established a splendid record for commercial integrity and public-spirited citizenship. He was connected with a number of enterprises which legitimately promoted the best interests of the city, and in several positions of public importance demonstrated the value of the business man in the advancement of municipal affairs when he possesses an earnest desire for the betterment of his community. It may be said that Mr. Loettgert combined the two characters of citizen and business man into a happy unison that did much for the Furniture City, and his career is one well worthy of emulation by the present and coming generations. Born in Altena, Prussia, Germany, April 10, 1840, Mr. Loettgert received a public school education and was seventeen years of age when he came to the United States. He early displayed the qualities of determination and progressiveness, and these, combined with inherent business ability of a high order, made him successful in his first venture, the conducting of a mercantile establishment at Detroit. From that city he soon changed his scene of activities to Grand Rapids, where he at once entered into the life of the growing municipality with a vim, aggressiveness and sureness of purpose that was bound to be productive of good results, and his merchandise store on Monroe street soon attracted a large and representative trade. Mr. Loettgert's energetic nature made it necessary that he find more than one line of endeavor for the outlet of his spirit and ability, and he soon found time to enter the field of insurance. In this, as in his mercantile venture, his honorable methods and straightforward dealing with his clients and customers won him confidence and an ever-increasing amount of prosperity, and his fellow business men learned to rely implicitly upon his word, while many sought of him counsel, advice and leadership in ventures of importance. Later he increased the scope of his activities to include the handling of passages on trans-Atlantic steamships, and found this field a prolific one for a man of his standing and acquaintance. In the midst of his many business activities Mr. Loettgert found time to give a part of his attention to matters affecting the public and the management of civic affairs. He was one of the organizers of the Charity Commission of Grand Rapids, and to the end of his life was one of its most generous supporters, giving freely of his time, abilities and means in forwarding its movements and institutions. His sound judgment, large capacity, and established reputation for honesty led to his being made a member of the board of police and fire commissioners, of which he was president at one time, and his public service was noted for its conscientiousness, thoroughness and capable handling of matters which called, not only for courage and thoroughness, but for the display of some diplomacy and tact. Mr. Loettgert was a Republican, but was a politician only in so far as it benefitted his city and his country. His only fraternal connection was with the

Hosted by Google

Masonic order, of which he was a member for many years. His death, which occurred Nov. 22, 1900, lost to the city a sterling, sound and reliable citizen, whose record still stands inviolate and unblemished.

Frank B. Long.—The business interests of Sand Lake are heavy and varied, offering opportunities for development and advancement, as the village is the natural center of a rich farming community that looks to this point as a source of supplies, as well as a market for farm products. It is, therefore, perfectly logical that those who engage in business here should have the opportunity of succeeding; but here, as elsewhere, ability is necessary for success, and industry, perseverance and integrity are necessary concomitants for a full measure of prosperity. Among the merchants who have attained to positions of independence and position in recent years, one who has a straightforward record for honest and upright dealing and for success won with honor and without animosity, is Frank B. Long, who has been proprietor of a general store here for twelve years and has also taken an active part in public affairs, being the present assessor of the village. Mr. Long was born in Van Buren county, Michigan, Dec. 10, 1871, and was reared in a farming atmosphere, his father having been one of the leading farmers of Van Buren county for many years, although a native of Vermont, where his boyhood and youth were passed. He is now a resident of Montcalm county, Michigan, where he continues to be engaged in the vocation of farming. While growing up on the home farm, Frank B. Long occupied his time and energies much the same as other farmers' sons of Van Buren county at that date, attending the district schools for several months each winter term and during the rest of the year giving a goodly share of his attention to farm work. His early experience with agricultural matters did not serve to make him take kindly to this kind of a life, and when he had completed his public school training he obtained permission to attend a business college at Big Rapids, where he took a course in bookkeeping and graduated in 1892. During the following seven years he was variously employed in mercantile establishments, while he learned business methods and accumulated sufficient capital, but in 1904 his ambition was attained when he became the proprietor of a house of his own. This, at Sand Lake, was then but a modest venture by a young man of small capital, but it has since grown and developed by leaps and bounds and is now one of the most successful and most largely-patronized in this part of the county, carrying a full line of up-to-date stock for supplying the needs of the residents of the surrounding country. Mr. Long bears an excellent reputation in business circles, both among his customers and business associates. Likewise as a citizen he has done his share in contributing to the welfare of Sand Lake and the community and is now serving in the capacity of assessor of the village. He has the unique distinction of having served as county treasurer of two counties in Michigan, and in all his official capacities he has had an unblemished reputation. Politically he supports Republicans, the party and the party's policies. Mr. Long married Ethel, daughter of A. S. McNaughton, Montcalm county, and of this union have been born three children: Angus A., born Jan. 26, 1907, and now attending the public schools; Marion E., Nov. 2, 1911; and Frank B., Jr., Oct. 23, 1913.

Hosted by Google

Dexter G. Look.—For more than a quarter of a century Dexter G. Look has been one of the foremost citizens of Lowell. Foremost in its business life, its financial concerns, its public enterprises, and in the distinction he has won and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow-citizens. Such varied achievement is a proud distinction, the fruition of a symmetrical manhood. It is possible only to the favored few upon whom have been bestowed the fundamental elements of energy, constructive ability and business intuition. All these essential qualities Mr. Look possesses, united with an unbending integrity of character that has commanded the trust and confidence of the public and made him an important factor in the development of this live and thriving community. Mr. Look was born in Lapeer county, Michigan, March 3, 1863, son of John and Adeline (Corwin) Look, natives of New York State. His father was born Sept. 6, 1801, and was only a lad when the War of 1812 broke out, but nevertheless he was a participant in that struggle, serving for twenty-six days as a teamster when he was only thirteen years of age. In 1834 he came to Lapeer county, Michigan, where he married Adeline Corwin, who had come to this state in 1830. They resided on a farm in Lapeer county and Mr. Look engaged in agricultural pursuits until his retirement, Sept. 15, 1877, at which time he changed his place of residence to Lowell, and here died, July 17, 1892, Mrs. Look surviving him some years. By his first wife, a Miss Hopkins, Mr. Look was father of four children: Orson H., Mrs. Alice Gardner and Mrs. Helen Eaton, all deceased, and John Quincy, of Grand Rapids. The only child of his father's second marriage, Dexter G. Look received his early education in the district school at Farmer's Creek, Lapeer county, and was fourteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Lowell, where he completed his studies at Lowell high school, being graduated with the class of 1880. At that time he became a clerk in the drug store of his half-brother, John Quincy Look, in whose employ he remained for six years, at the end of which period he purchased a one-half interest in the drug business conducted by Joseph Yeiter, whose partner he was for six years. He then purchased his partner's interest, and since that time, a quarter of a century, has conducted the business alone, by good management making it one of the leading commercial enterprises of the village. In any growing locality, whether it is developing from wilderness to settlement or from city to metropolis, the changing conditions offer splendid returns to foresight and business sagacity. The man who can foresee the strategic commercial situation may claim a conquest just as surely as may he who cunningly secures advantage in martial strife. It was through his ability to see where trade would develop that enabled Mr. Look to enter upon his successful career, and it has been through his ability to satisfy the needs of this trade that he has built his business up to its present enviable proportions. While the greater part of his attention has, naturally, been devoted to this business, the first in which he was engaged, he has been active in various other commercial and financial enterprises, and at this time is vice-president of the City State Bank of Lowell and treasurer of the Lowell Specialty. In business circles his name is synonymous with integrity and upright dealing, and his associates have every reason to place confidence in his judgment and

Hosted by Google

his probity. Mr. Look was married at Lowell to Evelyn, daughter of William B. and Elizabeth Rickert, natives of Paris, Canada, who came to Keene township, Ionia county, Michigan, shortly after marriage and were there engaged in farming for several years. Later they moved to Lowell, where Mr. Rickert established himself in a confectionery business, and is still active, although eighty-two years of age. Mrs. Rickert is now deceased. There were two children in the family: John H., a dental practitioner in Leicester, England; and Mrs. Look. Mr. and Mrs. Look are the parents of one child, Helen G., wife of Mr. Burger, cashier of the Commercial Savings Bank at Constantine, Mich. Not less than in business life, Mr. Look is prominent in public affairs, and for many years has served his fellow citizens in positions of responsibility and trust, in which he has rendered a splendid account of his abilities and his fidelity. He was for two terms township treasurer, was a member of the village council for sixteen years, during six years of which time he was president of that body, was president of the board of education for five years and a member of the school board of Lowell for about twelve years, and for five years has been county road commissioner. His political belief makes him a Republican. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Blue Lodge and Chapter of Masonry at Lowell, the Consistory at Grand Rapids, and the Shrine at that city, and also belongs to Lowell Camp No. 81, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

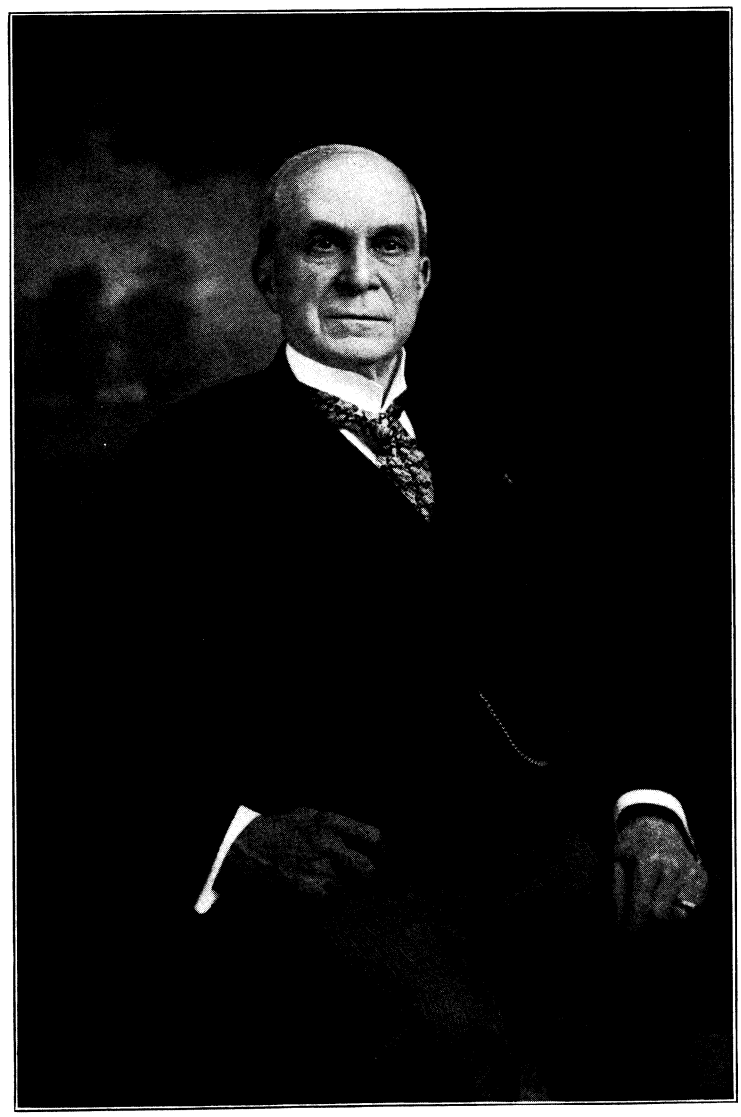
Scott P. Lowe.—From the viewpoint of the twentieth century, it may be difficult to fill out a picture of comfortable living in Kent county in the primitive days when no railroads reached this section, bringing news, commodities and visitors from the outside world; when even the absolute necessities of life were scarce and hard to secure; and when dangers were many and hardships numerous; but it must be remembered that life is more complex now, and that horizons are wider, demands greater and expectations higher. Undoubtedly, those whose lot it was to carve out the pioneer path here and elsewhere ultimately found happiness and contentment despite the dangers and privations. Among the hardy early settlers of Kent county was Abraham Lowe, who founded his family here in 1852, since which time it has been identified with the agricultural interests of this community, its present representative being Scott P. Lowe, who owns much of the original homestead. Scott P. Lowe was born in Bowne township, Kent county, July 27, 1868, son of Hiram and Eliza (Porritt) Lowe, the former born in Somerset township, Niagara county, New York, and the latter at Detroit, Mich. When Hiram Lowe was six years of age his father, Abraham Lowe, gathered together his family possessions and what capital he could realize, and, with his family, started on the long journey to Michigan. The trip was made by canal to Detroit, from whence the little party made their way overland with ox-teams to Galesburg, in which community they remained four years. While living there, Mr. Lowe heard of a pioneer settler whose sons had gotten into trouble with the Indians and who wished to leave the locality before something serious occurred, and Abraham Lowe grasped at the opportunity to secure 200 acres of wild land in Bowne township at a reasonable figure. Thus, in 1852, the Lowe family was established in a country that still teemed with deer and other wild game, and where were still

Hosted by Google

heard the cries of the Indians, mementos of whom Scott P. Lowe still has in the form of fifteen arrowheads, picked up on the farm. The Lowe family maintained friendly relations with the redskins, who formed a great liking for the pumpkin pies made by Grandmother Lowe, who made many trades with them, receiving calico, for the most part, in exchange for her toothsome pastry. Abraham Lowe continued to be engaged in farming in Bowne township during the remainder of his life, cleared off the greater part of his 200 acres, and sold some of this land to James Thompson. He was an excellent type of the sturdy pioneer and his name and reputation were known all over this locality. Hiram Lowe was the oldest of five children, the others being: Almina, deceased wife of the late James Lee, who was a soldier in the Civil war; Cordelia, who married Nelson Dotty and lives at Central Lake, Mich.; Henry, who enlisted in the Union army when a lad of but fifteen years, contracted disease and died in a field hospital as a victim to the Civil war, and John W., whose home is in Kansas. Hiram Lowe grew up on the home farm, amid pioneer surroundings, and when he came of age purchased sixty acres of the home farm, upon which he engaged in general operations until within three months of his death, caused by an attack of la grippe. At that time he had accumulated eighty acres of land and was considered one of the skilled and energetic farmers of his locality, as well as a citizen who took an active part in public affairs. He served as school director several times, was a stanch Republican, and at different times attended the United Brethren and Methodist Episcopal churches. He and his wife were parents of the following children: Emery H. and Harry, twins, the former engaged in farming with his brother, Scott P., and the latter deceased; Alice, who lives in Colorado; Scott P.; Clara B. and William, residents of Grand Rapids; Hannah, of Colorado; and Arthur, of Saranac, Mich. After attending the district schools of Bowne township, Scott P. Lowe began farming with his father, at whose death he bought the homestead place of sixty acres, to which he has since added by purchase. He carries on general farming and is skilled in all departments of agricultural work, which he prosecutes in a modern manner and with up-to-date machinery and implements. Mr. Lowe has long been prominently before his fellow-citizens in various ways, having been for twenty years incumbent of the office of township treasurer and for eight years justice of the peace of Bowne township. His political belief makes him a Republican. He has also been prominent in church work, having been a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church for the last quarter of a century, and at present being chairman of the board of trustees, in addition to which he has for twelve consecutive years been superintendent of the Sabbath school. No movement for community betterment as to morals, education or civic management is considered complete until his name is enrolled as a supporter, and he was one of the strongest adherents of temperance in the recent work that resulted in Michigan being voted dry. Mr. Lowe was married Dec. 22, 1897, to Margaret A. Robinson, who was born in England, in which country her parents still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Lowe have had two children: Laura Grace, who is attending high school at Lowell, and Scott Robinson, who died Aug. 30, 1914, at Bowne Center.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



FARNHAM LYON

Hosted by Google

Charles M. Luce, present proprietor of the Hotel Mertens, was born at Battle Creek, Mich., Dec. 2, 1883, son of Charles A. and Ellen (Hall) Luce. After attending the public schools of Grand Rapids he went to Chicago, where he attended the Chicago Manual Training school and while there joined the Tau Delta Phi fraternity. In 1907 he started traveling on the road as a salesman of furniture, on a commission basis, but in 1910 left the road to enter the purchasing department of the American Sheeting Company, with which he was connected for one year. Mr. Luce next went to Wickenburg, Ariz., where he engaged in the general merchandise business under the firm style of Luce & Campbell until 1913, when he came to Grand Rapids and became associated with Mr. Mehrtens in the building of the new Hotel Mertens, of which he has been proprietor and manager since the elder man's death. This hotel, at the corner of Oakes and Commerce streets, was thrown open to the public, Jan. 6, 1914. It is a fire-proof structure, sanitary in every particular, 100x50 feet in dimensions, and has eight floors and 133 rooms, forty rooms being with bath. The house has become extremely popular among those of the traveling public who appreciate real comfort, an excellent cuisine and attentive service, and who know that their every requirement will be gladly and intelligently catered to. Mr. Luce is a Republican in his political tendencies and is fraternally affiliated with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. He has shown himself as being in sympathy with progressive movements and as a citizen has supported public-spirited enterprises. Mr. Luce was married, Sept. 10, 1913, to Gertrude Ann, daughter of Charles H. Mehrtens, and they are the parents of a son, Charles Mehrtens.

Maj. Farnham Lyon.—While more than seven years have passed away since Maj. Farnham Lyon was called to his final rest, he lives in the memory of his many friends as the highest type of loyal citizen and progressive, honorable business man. He never faltered in the performance of any task that was rightfully his, and throughout his career his dealings were just and straightforward and he never sought to take advantage of the misfortunes of others. Actuated by high ideals, his life was passed in strict conformity therewith. As a defender of the American flag in the Civil war, as a business man and as a supporter of worthy movements which have their root in unselfish devotion to the best interests of the country, Maj. Farnham Lyon has left his impress indelibly inscribed upon the history of Saginaw, where so many years of his life were passed. Major Lyon was born Nov. 5, 1829, at Shelburn Falls, N. Y., a son of Truman Hawley and Louise (Farnham) Lyon, natives of the Empire State. Truman Hawley Lyon brought his family to Michigan, in 1837, and four years later located at Grand Rapids, where he became one of the prominent and influential men of his day, serving both as postmaster and as judge of the Superior court. The early education of Farnham Lyon was secured in the public schools of his native state and completed in the schools of Michigan, whence he had accompanied his parents when still a lad. When he reached more mature years he gained his first business experience in the hotel business, being associated with his uncle, Edward Lyon, who was proprietor of the old Michigan Exchange Hotel at Detroit. He was acting as clerk of this old-time hostelry when the Civil War came on and was one of the

Hosted by Google

first to enlist in answer to President Lincoln's call for troops. He became a member of the Seventh Michigan cavalry, with the rank of lieutenant and quartermaster, and subsequently was advanced to captain and quartermaster. For a long period he was on the staff of General Custer, with whom he served until the fall of the Confederacy, and during their army life a strong friendship sprung up between the two men that existed until the untimely death of the latter. On March 20, 1866, Captain Lyon was advanced to the rank of major, and it was with this title that he returned to the duties of civil life. The intrepid soldier had established a splendid record for gallantry and fidelity, and had passed through some of the greatest actions of the war, but he dutifully laid aside the weapons of the soldier and took up the prosaic tasks of the civilian, confident that his responsibility called upon him to do so. For some years he was proprietor of the Rathbun House, at Grand Rapids, and in 1874 opened the Morton House, in partnership with A. V. Pantlind, but in 1876 he removed to Saginaw, where he had charge of the Bancroft House. His interests branched out and his activities found an outlet in other directions, and for years he was a director in the Home Savings Bank, the Saginaw Savings Bank and the East Saginaw Savings Bank. A Democrat in politics, he worked hard for his friends but did not seek personal preferment, although in 1892 he was a delegate of his party to the National convention. He belonged to the Loyal Legion, the Masons, the Saginaw club and the Saginaw Country club. His death, Feb. 14, 1911, removed one than whom no citizen had in larger measure the esteem of his fellows, nor exerted a stronger influence for the promotion of honor and good citizenship. Major Lyon was married, Sept. 17, 1867, to Miss Carrie Merchant, daughter of Joel and Adeline (Dodge) Merchant, of Grand Rapids, but natives of New York. Mrs. Lyon's parents came to Grand Rapids in 1854, Mr. Merchant securing employment in the dry goods store of John M. Fox and later he entered into partnership with Mr. Sears as proprietor of a cracker factory, which they conducted with much success until Mr. Merchant's retirement some years before his death. He passed away, Feb. 15, 1888, while his widow survived him until July 16, 1904. Mrs. Lyon, since the death of the Major, has resided at No. 46 Lafayette street, S. E., Grand Rapids, where she has a beautiful home and hosts of friends. By a former marriage Major Lyon became the father of a daughter, Fannie, who married Arthur O. Poinier, of Saginaw, and at her death left two children—Catherine Lyon and Margaret Farnham.

Dell Mabie.—The agricultural element of northern Kent county forms a class of independent men who have hewed their own way to prosperity and position and who have in many cases been witnesses of the entire changes that have so developed this region during the past half a century. The list of these men includes Dell Mabie, of Solon township, who has been the architect of his own fortune and who has fairly won the independence and standing that are now his. Mr. Mabie was born in Solon township, Kent county, Michigan, June 24, 1865. His father, Elias Mabie, was born in the town of Naples, N. Y., May 15, 1834, and in his native state followed farming and lumbering for some years. It was in the latter capacity that he came to Michigan during the early '60s, but when he had engaged

Hosted by Google

as a lumberman for some years realized the fertility and productiveness of the land here for agricultural purposes and accordingly secured a tract from the Government. The remainder of his life was passed in the pursuits of the soil, and his farm was developed absolutely through his own efforts, from the time of the first rude log cabin in the little clearing until he saw his broad acres covered with crops and his substantial buildings the abode of his family and the shelter of his live-stock and implements. He died on the farm which his industry had reclaimed from the wilderness. Mr. Mabie was unable to serve as a soldier in the Civil war, but was a warm Union sympathizer and had three brothers in the army. Mr. Mabie married Rhoda Rounds, a daughter of Russell Rounds, one of the early settlers of this region. Mrs. Mabie frequently related to her children incidents and recollections of the early days, when there was only one house at Cedar Springs and that built of logs. At nights the wolves and panthers would howl around the lonely little cabin, with its blanketed doors and windows, wild game of all kinds being plentifully found in Solon township. Even the bare necessities of life were hard to secure, and absolutely no comforts or conveniences were to be secured. Mr. and Mrs. Mabie were the parents of two children: Charley, born Sept. 29, 1860, and Dell. The education of Dell Mabie was somewhat neglected in his youth, although he attended school at White Creek, in Solon township. The greater part of the time that he should have been at his studies he spent in work at the shingle factory and following this he entered the woods, where he remained for nearly a quarter of a century. He was frugal and careful with his earnings and eventually came to his present farm in Solon township, where he has made many improvements. In the way of progressiveness he has adopted modern methods of farming, and his operations yield him a handsome income under his careful and painstaking management. Mr. Mabie married Miss Nettie Tuttle, daughter of Walter and Orpha Tuttle, farming people of this community. Mr. Tuttle was a volunteer in the Union army at the outbreak of the Civil war, fought through that struggle and eventually returned unharmed to his home. Mr. and Mrs. Mabie are the parents of four children: Lowell is unmarried and one of the energetic farmers of Solon township; Vern is his father's assistant in the work of the home farm; Roy is also engaged in assisting his father; and Don is still attending school. Mr. Mabie has not been an office seeker, but has served for some years as school director and holds that position at present. As a voter he supports the candidates of the Republican party.

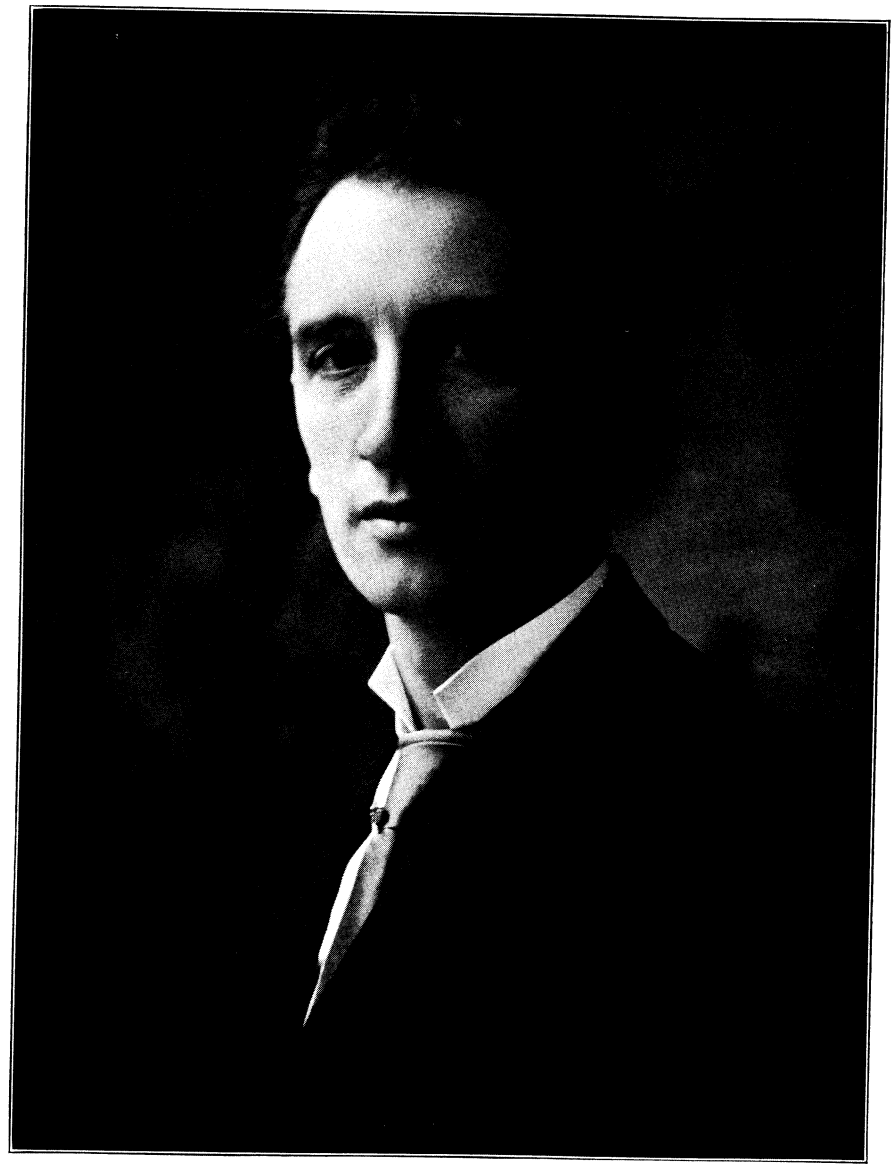
Nelson Mabie.—More than sixty-three years have passed since Nelson Mabie, one of the old and honored residents of the Cedar Springs community, first came to Kent county. He was then in the flush of early manhood, a hardy and ambitious youth, competent and willing to cope with the question of developing a farm from the timbered land which he saw all around him. The history of the progress of this section is largely his own history, for he has shared with others the task of bringing a fertile and productive country into existence and has done much to aid its institutions and promote the welfare of its people. Mr. Mabie was born on a farm in Gainesville township, Genesee county, New York, Dec. 6, 1832, son of Amos

Hosted by Google

C. Mabie. His grandfather, Elias Mabie, of New York, is supposed to have been a farmer, for there has always been a predilection for this kind of work in the family and many of its members have engaged therein. Born in Dutchess county, New York, Amos C. Mabie followed farming in that county and later in Genesee county until 1855, when he emigrated to the newly-opened West and settled in Solon township. Despite his fifty-five years, he entered actively into the work of clearing his eighty-acre farm, which he had purchased from the Government at seventy-five cents an acre, lived in his little log cabin which he had erected in the clearing, and enjoyed such comforts as his industry could obtain for him. He did not live to see his entire farm cleared, but during his life acquired a modest competence, so that his declining years were passed in the quiet contentment of retirement. Mr. Mabie married Anor Fisher, daughter of Joseph and Sarah Fisher, also of New York. As far as is known, Mr. Fisher, who was a shoemaker by trade, never came to Michigan. There were ten children in the Mabie family: Phoebe, Nancy, Allen, John, Sarah, Jonas, Nelson, Elias, Susan, and Edward. Nelson Mabie was educated in the district schools of New York and as a young man worked by the month among neighbors, as well as on the farm of his father; thus obtaining his first experience. He was something more than twenty-two years of age when he first came to Kent county, in November, 1854, and for a short time worked by the month, but eventually decided to become a landowner himself, and accordingly bought 160 acres of land from the Government, paying therefor seventy-five cents an acre. He had faith in the future of the community in which he had settled and worked hard to clear up his land, and has since seen the forest replaced by prosperous homesteads and broad fields of fertility and productiveness. After clearing practically all of his land, Mr. Mabie sold off eighty acres, but since then has bought another forty, so that his farm now consists of 120 acres. He has conducted his operations in a scientific manner, with modern machinery, and his marked business ability has assisted in making his success a worth-while one. Mr. Mabie has reached advanced years, but still continues actively engaged in the work of his farm. He married Catherine Young, daughter of Edward and Sarah (Cassner) Young, some of whose family came from Canada to Grattan, Mich., where Mr. Young was a farmer and blacksmith. His wife died in Canada in 1830, and he died in Solon in 1882. Mr. and Mrs. Mabie have no children. Mr. Mabie was drafted for service in the Civil war but was never called into the ranks. His younger brother, Edwin, however, served throughout the war and returned uninjured to the family. He was one of the party detailed to capture Jefferson Davis, for which capture each member of the party received $200. Nelson Mabie has been variously identified with public affairs in his township, having been a member of the board of school directors, commissioner of highways and served in other offices. He has exerted much influence in the building and improvement of highways and roads in his locality and has to his own credit a road which is accounted one of the best in this part of the county. Mr. Mabie is a strong supporter of temperance and in politics is a Prohibitionist. As a fraternalist, he was a member of Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, A. F. & A. M., and he belongs to the Wesleyan M. E. church.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Otto Karl Mádl

Hosted by Google

George F. Mackenzie.—In financial circles of Grand Rapids, a name that carries weight because of its owner's banking ability and general reputation is that of George F. Mackenzie. While he has been a resident of this city only since 1909, he has already become recognized as a capable financier and one whose position as vice-president and cashier of the Old National Bank has lent decided strength to that institution. Mr. Mackenzie, as his name would suggest, is of Scotch birth. He is a son of Roderick Mackenzie, of Stornoway, Island of Lewis, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, where George F. Mackenzie was born, Feb. 15, 1866. After an ordinary education in the public schools, at the age of fifteen years he entered the British Linen Bank in his native town and for four years was employed in that bank, then coming to America, where he entered the services of the American Exchange Bank, of Duluth, Minn., an institution with which he remained for the next twenty-one years. When he left that bank it was to go to the Northern Crown Bank of Winnipeg, being connected therewith for three years in the capacity of manager of the main office of that bank, and in 1909 he transferred his residence to the United States and located at Grand Rapids, as assistant cashier of the Old National Bank. Later he was advanced to the post of cashier, and finally to his present position as vice president and cashier. During his connection with banking affairs at Grand Rapids, Mr. Mackenzie has gained a reputation for astuteness and conservatism and for executive ability of a high order. He is a valued and active member of the Association of Commerce, and belongs to the Kent Country club and the Peninsular club.

Ottokar Malek.—When the history of music in Michigan shall be properly written, few men will be found who have more indelibly stamped their individuality and genius upon their period and their community than has Ottokar Malek, of Grand Rapids. The complete history of his busy life would be inspiring and serve as an example to those seeking achievement; but within the limits assigned to this brief sketch, it is possible to give only a brief outline of his career and of the famous institution of which he is the head and guiding spirit, the Malek School of Music. Ottokar Malek was born at Budweis, on the Moldau river, Bohemia, Dec. 20, 1875, son of Joseph and Anna (Koneck) Malek. His father, who was a civil engineer at Budweis and Prague for a number of years, is deceased, and Mrs. Malek makes her home with her son at Grand Rapids. The early education of Ottokar Malek was secured in the public schools and his musical training began when he was still a small child. When he was twenty years of age he graduated with highest honors in the celebrated Prague Conservatory and was engaged as instructor to the Duke of Fuerstenberg, winning this most enviable position from many competitors. Later he went to Vienna, where he studied for three years with the famous Alfred Gruenfeld, court pianist to the German and Austrian emperors. After this, Mr. Malek took up the system of piano technic with the celebrated Leschetizky, and this great master's influence has been of inestimable value to Mr. Malek in his musical career, as it has perfected the much desired gift of being able to impart knowledge to others. In 1896 Mr. Malek began to tour Europe as a concert pianist, and everywhere won the highest commendation. Shortly before coming to this country he held the

Hosted by Google

position of professor at the Eichelberg Conservatory in Berlin, besides being one of the "Capellmeisters of the Berliner Tonkuenstler Orchester," of which Richard Strauss was then the first conductor. In 1902 Mr. Malek came to the United States and won wide recognition while touring the United States and Canada. Since 1908 his time has been given mainly to teaching and coaching pupils for the concert stage, beside playing publicly and occupying the position of director of piano departments of different large music schools in and about Chicago. Among the number of artist-teachers, who are helping to free the piano study from the old traditional dictums, handed down in a sort of apostolic succession from teachers of past generations, Mr. Malek has been looked upon as an authority. The results realized by his pupils as well as their musical and artistically finished playing were commented always by the press and public as very unusual. The Malek School of Music was founded by Mr. Malek in 1914, at 254 Fulton street, East, and his efforts to provide the community with opportunities to obtain the best teaching and the most helpful artistic surroundings have been crowned with success, for its artistic activities and high standard have made the school a leading factor in the musical life and gained for it the prestige of being "the school whose reputation and success is built on merit and results." Not only is the student of the Malek School of Music given every opportunity to broaden his artistic horizon by providing him with instruction in more than one branch, but he is surrounded by that musical atmosphere which is so stimulating to earnest study, as well as by the example of others who are laboring to bring their talents to perfection. The reputation won by the students as performers and teachers, the professional character of the students' recitals, and above all, the wholesome and comprehensive schooling given every student, be his talent great or small, afford evidence of the high standard maintained by the school, and are responsible for the brilliant reputation it has achieved. The school consists of a piano department, a vocal department, a violin department, an organ department, a theoretical department, a children's department and an elocution department, and languages are also taught, in addition to which there is chamber-music and orchestra-practice under the instruction of Mr. Malek, and a choral class under William Beard. The work of the school is divided into regular and special courses, the former including the prepartory, the academic, the teacher's and the artist's course. The system of instruction used in the Malek School of Music affords the pupil direct individual instruction, public appearances of the pupils, alternating with recitals given by the teachers, thus bringing the pupils, teachers and parents in constant contact, lending a healthy impetus toward diligent work and good progress. In making up its faculty, the school consistently has endeavored to obtain instructors whose qualifications for their work are of the highest order. The members of the faculty are exponents of modern, rational and progressive methods of instruction, and form a strong assembly of workers with unity of thought and purpose. A short reference to these instructors may prove not without interest. Mrs. Florence Krumme-Malek is a pianiste and teacher of unusual ability. At an early age she showed a great talent for music. In Chicago she studied piano with the renowned composer-pianist, F. A. Kern, and

Hosted by Google

harmony with C. Graham. At the age of thirteen she was awarded a free scholarship by a prominent Chicago musical college, but this she did not accept, preferring to study with Mr. Malek. Under his instruction she became his foremost pupil, winning everywhere admiration and success with her finished and artistic playing. For the last eight years Mrs. Malek has given preparatory instruction to Mr. Malek's pupils and has demonstrated that she is an exceptionally thorough and competent teacher. She has won high praise from the public and the press of Grand Rapids by her numerous appearances as soloist and also with her husband in two-piano ensemble work. Mrs. William H. Loomis had the advantages of a most thorough collegiate and musical training in America and Europe. She received her first musical education from her mother at an early age and continued to study piano and harmony with H. C. Post. After this, Mrs. Loomis studied organ with the well known Brooklyn organist, Dudley Buck, Sr., and took the musical lecture course of the Columbia University under McDowell in New York. In connection with her theoretical studies, Mrs. Loomis continued her vocal training with Signor Agramonti, and after years of study in New York, went to Berlin, Germany, to become a pupil of Edgar Stillman Kelly in composition, and Wilhelm Fisher in organ playing. She has been connected with the Malek School of Music as teacher of theory and harmony since it was established, and has taken a pedagogic course in modern piano teaching under Ottokar Malek, to prepare herself thoroughly in the uniform system used in the piano department. Mrs. Loomis has been for years very successful as director of church choirs, and is well known as an influential factor in the uplift of the musical life of Grand Rapids. Her unusual success as a teacher is due not only to her enthusiasm but also to her thorough knowledge of the subjects she teaches. Miss Hazel M. McEachron, a talented pianiste, through careful and conscientious work with her pupils, has made an enviable reputation as a teacher. In addition to her regular piano study, Miss McEachron had a full course in harmony with Mrs. William H. Loomis. Miss McEachron has had a thorough preparation for teaching in the piano department of the Malek School of Music, where she has been for the past three years with great satisfaction to her students and the institution. She had a thorough preparation for teaching the modern piano technic under Ottokar Malek. Miss Anna Cada, a graduate of the Malek School of Music, received all her piano training under Ottokar Malek. She studied theory extensively under J. C. Graham of Chicago, and the last two years under Mrs. William H. Loomis at the Malek School of Music. Miss Cada appeared frequently in public in Grand Rapids with remarkable success. She is thoroughly prepared for the work of training pupils in the technic of the piano. The management of the Malek School of Music takes much pride in the fact that it has been able to re-engage the services of William Beard for the vocal department, whose experience as teacher covers a period of fourteen years and who has attained results that have secured for him a place among the best teachers of Chicago. Mr. Beard is universally known, and has won recognition not only as a concert and oratorio singer, but has had a large share in the making of many artists now before the public. Mr. Beard has appeared before most of the large

Hosted by Google

clubs and societies throughout the country, has sung the leading baritone roles in some twelve or fifteen operas and his repertoire of oratorios is almost unlimited. In his career as teacher he has placed a large number of successful students in important positions throughout the country. Mrs. Frances Morton-Crume, formerly of New York, removed to Grand Rapids to become a member of the faculty of the Malek School of Music. Her musical education began at the age of five years, since which time she has studied piano under Mary Wood Chase, and voice under Mme. Ragna Linne, in Chicago. In New York she studied extensively under Douglas Powell and Arthur Lawrenson. Mrs. Morton-Crume possesses a beautiful contralto voice of unusual range and great volume and uses it in a manner which shows faithful work for mastery of voice and technic. She has appeared as soloist with the Damrosch Orchestra of New York, the Cincinnati and Chicago Symphony Orchestras, and has made brilliant concert appearances in many cities of this country. Besides singing in concert, Mrs. Morton-Crume was unusually successful in teaching, leaving behind a large class of pupils in New York to follow the call to Grand Rapids. Alexander Sebald, one of the most important violin virtuosos of the present time, was born in Budapest, Hungary. When thirteen, he became a pupil of the Royal Musical Academy in Ofen, studying besides violin, organ and composition. Franz Liszt, who heard Sebald in Budapest, said: "Watch that youngster. He will be a great violinist." And so, on Liszt's responsibility, it was decided that young Sebald should devote himself to music. Beginning with his fifteenth year, he played chamber-music, so that today he stands a thoroughly educated musician. After studying with Cesar Thompson, Sebald has been concert-master under all the important directors of the present time—Mamler, Nickisch, Hans Richter, Mottl, Richard Strauss, Dr. Muck, Franz Steinbach, Felix Weingartner. With the Gewandhaus-Quartet of Leipzig he made tours through Europe. Later, with wonderful rapidity, the Hungarian violinist began to draw the attention of the public to himself, especially in Berlin and Leipzig, when he played in three evenings all the Sonatas of J. S. Bach and the Caprices of Paganini for violin alone—played them masterfully and in the true style. He immediately thereafter received a call to the position as first concert-master in the Kaim-Orchestra in Munich under Felix Weingartner. Later he gave up this position in order to devote himself to the career as soloist. Two months after settling at Berlin, Sebald was paid the honor of being made first concert-master of the Royal Orchestra in Berlin. The artist later resigned this position, to become a free artist. Since then his career as soloist has been crowned with brilliant success. He was chosen as judge and prize awarder in the Berlin Musical Exposition, in 1906. He was also invited to be the successor of Emile Sauret in the Chicago Musical College, but had to decline at that time, since he was engaged for the season of 1906-7 for a tournee of sixty concerts through England, Scotland and Ireland. After finishing this tour, Sebald accepted the position as director of the violin department of the Chicago Musical College and became known in this country as one of the greatest artist-teachers of the violin. Perry Parton Weid, a violinist of many years of experience, is a graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory in violin, piano and harmony;

Hosted by Google

studied in Boston for two years with C. N. Allen, a violinist of the Paris school. After this Mr. Weid became pupil of Waldemar Meyer, of Berlin, for a period of five years. Mr. Weid concertized in Italy, Germany and England and became teacher of violin at the Royal College of Music in London. Upon his return to this country he was engaged as regular teacher in the Oberlin Conservatory, Mt. Holyoke (Conn.) Seminary, Delaware University and as private teacher in Chicago. His enthusiasm and patience in helping the pupils over the many obstacles, coupled with the fact that he devoted himself exclusively to the science of teaching, are some of the things that contribute to his success as a pedagogue. Sherman A. Tuller, who has been favorably known in Grand Rapids for over ten years, is a serious student who has neglected no opportunity to make himself master of his chosen instrument. His first instruction was received from Wilbur B. Force, one of Grand Rapids' foremost violinists. Max Fischel, a pupil of the great technician, Cesar Thomson; Mr. Callow, of Chicago, who is an exponent of the Sevcik School, which will be remembered as the school upon which Kubelik's fame rests, were his next teachers. Since Alexander Sebald's engagement as the head of the violin department, Mr. Tuller continued his study under this famous teacher. Aside from his thorough knowledge of the violin, Mr. Tuller combines rare taste with a splendid ability to inspire his pupils with confidence and ambition. His enthusiasm and personality, combined with untiring patience, make him especially successful with beginners and young students. Mrs. Myrtle Koon Cherryman has been for years a teacher of elocution and English and a public speaker and reader of acknowledged ability. Miss Ruby E. Hughes, having lived several years on the Mexican border, and two years in Mexico, had abundant opportunity to secure a thorough knowledge of Spanish, which language she has taught very successfully in Grand Rapids. Mr. Malek was married, July 9, 1908, to Florence, daughter of Albert and Dorothy (Imeroth) Krumme, of Chicago, and they are the parents of three children: Ottokar, Jr., Anita and Eleanor. Mr. Malek is a member of the Masonic order, of the O-Wash-ta-nong club, and of the Association of Commerce.

Edward C. Mangold.—In the isolated cases where ambition is satisfied and all ultimate aims have been accomplished, efforts cease and enterprise disappears. The possibilities of successful attainment of a goal, however, continually incite to the exercise of energy and perseverance and it is found that in nearly every case those who stand highest in public esteem and have reached positions of influence in business circles are those who have steadily applied themselves and have not let their ambitions be deterred. Among those who figure prominently in business circles of Grand Rapids, one who has been a steady and industrious worker since he entered upon his career, is Edward C. Mangold. For nearly a quarter of a century he was identified with the milling business, but during the last ten years has been connected with the knitting industry, and is now secretary and treasurer of the Sanitary Knitting Company. Mr. Mangold was born at Michigan City, Ind., April 13, 1866, son of Simon and Louisa F. (Wurster) Mangold. His father was born on the Rhine river, in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1822, and was a lad of eleven years of age when brought to this country, in 1833, the first home of

Hosted by Google

the family being in New York City. When still a young man he turned his face toward the West and for a time lived at Toledo, Ohio, where he followed the business of a miller. Subsequently he moved to Michigan City, Ind., where he took up the brewing business. He came to Grand Rapids, in 1869, and again became a miller, being a member of the firm of Mangold, Hibbard & Company. He was connected with this concern until his death, in 1877, when he was fifty-five years of age. Mr. Mangold was a Democrat in politics and his religious faith was that of the German Lutheran church, the same as that of his wife. She was born in Michigan and died at Grand Rapids, June 5, 1907. To Mr. and Mrs. Mangold were born seven children: Mathilda S., of Grand Rapids; Richard C., a resident of Chicago; George A., of Grand Rapids; Edward C., of this notice; Albert H., of San Diego, Cal.; and Clara D. and Malinda E., of Grand Rapids. Edward C. Mangold was still a child when brought by his parents to Grand Rapids, and in the public schools of this city he obtained his early education. He fitted himself for a business career by a course in the Grand Rapids Business College, and then learned the milling business. To this he applied himself for twenty-four years, but in 1908 gave it up to assist in the organization of the Sanitary Knitting Company, of which he is still secretary and treasurer, E. A. Clements being president and Carl A. Clements vice-president. At the outset, the capital of the concern consisted of a small capital but today it is one of the leading industries of Grand Rapids. There were but twenty people employed at the start, while at present there are from seventy-five to eighty employees engaged in making sanitary knitted custom underwear. In addition to a large regular trade, the company has at this time a large Government contract for use during the war. Mr. Mangold has shown himself a capable man of affairs, well versed in the business in which he is engaged, and possessed of force and executive capacity. In addition to the business mentioned he is interested in several banks and other concerns as a stockholder, and in each enterprise possesses in full the confidence of those associated with him. Mr. Mangold is independent in his political views, preferring to make his own choice of candidates and formulate his own views on public questions, to being held down by party lines or directed in his thoughts by party leaders. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks and the Knights of Pythias, and has numerous friends in both orders. He also belongs to the Grandview Automobile club. Mr. Mangold was married Dec. 2, 1916, to Miss M. Cressy Geer, daughter of William R. and Dolly (Cressy) Geer, of Grand Rapids, and the family residence is at 1448 Robinson road.

George M. Mantle was born at Birch Run, Saginaw county, Michigan, Feb. 4, 1861, son of Francis and Margaret (Woodman) Mantle, the former a native of Virginia and the latter of Canada. At the age of sixteen the father went to St. Lawrence county, New York, and later to Canada, where he was married, and he then came to Saginaw, Mich., near which city he purchased forty acres of wild land, which he cleared and made a home for himself and family. He afterward traded this farm for forty acres of land in Tuscola county, where he resided until his death, at the age of eighty years. His wife died at the age of sixty-four. They were parents of ten children—six sons

Hosted by Google

and four daughters—and those living are John, Eliza J., who resides in Tuscola county; George M., and Samuel, the last named also residing in Tuscola county. George M. Mantle was educated in the schools of Tuscola county and for a number of years followed the occupation of teacher in Emmet and Ogemaw counties. He then commenced work at the carpenter trade and followed that occupation until he was seriously injured, in 1888, while working on the Grand Hotel at Mackinaw Island. He fell thirty-three feet and as a result of his injuries was incapacitated for work for a period of two years. In 1890 he came to Grand Rapids and again commenced work as a carpenter, being thus employed for about five years. He then purchased what was known as the Huff farm, containing eighty acres, in Byron township, where he has since made his home. Mr. Mantle was married, Oct. 15, 1891, to Miss Lillie LeBaron, daughter of Erastus M. and Phoebe Ann (Wright) LeBaron, of York, Washtenaw county, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Mantle are parents of two children: Adele, born May 12, 1893, and Frances, Feb. 20, 1903. In addition to superintending his farm, Mr. Mantle still devotes considerable time to working at the carpenter trade.

Hon. Carl E. Mapes was born in the township of Kalamo, Eaton county, Michigan, Dec. 26, 1874, son of Selah W. and Sarah Ann (Brooks) Mapes, the former a native of New York and the latter of Washtenaw county, Michigan. Selah W. Mapes was a lad of seven years when brought by his parents to Michigan, and after his education had been secured in the primitive schools of the day, he himself became a country district school teacher. He resided on the original homestead in Kalamo township, Eaton county, until 1887, when he moved with his family to Olivet, Mich., where he is now living in retirement. He is a Republican and has held various township offices within the gift of his fellow-citizens and was for a number of years president of the Barry and Eaton Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company and the Michigan Tornado and Cyclone Insurance Company. Mr. and Mrs. Mapes were married, April 12, 1857. Mrs. Mapes passed to her final rest Oct. 5, 1917, after a married life of over sixty years. There were eight children in the family, of whom four survive: Carrie, wife of Charles E. Matteson, of Rapid City, S. D.; S. Ira, of Eaton county, Michigan; John A., of Seattle, Wash., who is now serving as chaplain in the Medical Reserve Corps, and Hon. Carl E. After attending the graded and high schools of Olivet, Carl E. Mapes was sent to Olivet College, being graduated therein with the class of 1896. He chose the profession of law and graduated with his degree in the University of Michigan, in 1899. In the fall of that year he embarked in practice at Grand Rapids, and in 1901 he entered the prosecuting attorney's office as an assistant under Judge William B. Brown. He continued in the prosecuting attorney's office until Jan. 1, 1905, when he was sent to the lower house of the Michigan legislature and served one term in that body. In 1909 he was made a state senator and remained in the upper house of the legislature until 1912, when he was chosen as representative to Congress from the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan. He was re-elected in 1914 and 1916. Congressman Mapes belongs to the Park Congregational church. He was married, Aug. 14, 1907, to Miss Julia Pike, daughter of Abram and Eliza (Roberts) Pike, of Grand Rapids, and of this

Hosted by Google

union have been born four children: Robert W., John Pike, Jane Elizabeth and Ruth.

Harry D. Marshall.—By birth, training, education and business experience, Harry D. Marshall is a Grand Rapids man. He also belongs to the class of business workers who have found in this city the opportunity to develop their own fortunes and to bring about a standing and position for themselves while still in the prime of life. Ten years have served to bring Mr. Marshall from a salesmanship to the dual office of secretary and treasurer of the Rathbone Manufacturing Company, a concern which is listed among Grand Rapids' most prominent business organizations. Harry D. Marshall's birthdate was March 11, 1879, when he came to grace and bless the home of Joseph and Estelle (Barnes) Marshall. His parents gave him a public school education, and the youth started his business career with the Alabastine Company. During the twelve or fourteen years that he was connected with that firm he arose from office boy to the position of traffic manager. In 1907 he transferred his services and allegiance to the Rathbone Manufacturing Company, which concern had offered him a position as salesman. He at once justified their confidence in his ability by displaying a proper amount of ability and energy and, in 1917, after a number of other promotions, he was chosen as secretary and treasurer. Mr. Marshall is a business man and nothing else. He has had his time fully occupied in earning his advancement and establishing his position, therefore he has not been able to figure prominently in public affairs; nor has it been his desire to do so. He is known as a good citizen, who withholds his support from no movement promulgated for the public welfare, but his cooperation is given as an individual, not as a seeker for official honors. He is not so busy, however, that he does not care to mingle with his fellows in a social way, and is one of the popular members of the Peninsular club. Mr. Marshall was happily married, Sept. 10, 1913, to Miss Edith Butler, of St. Louis, Mo. They have one child, Harry D., Jr.

Frank H. Mathison, vice-president and general manager of the Michigan Lithographing Company, is a former Chicago man who has spent his entire career in the line with which he is now identified and has trodden the well known but difficult road to self-made success. Commencing in the humble capacity of errand boy, he has worked his way up through the various departments, mastering each as he passed through, and thus it is that he is one of the most thoroughly informed men connected with this business. Mr. Mathison was born at Chicago, Ill., June 8, 1870, son of Harry Mathison. After securing a public school education he entered the services of the Hughes & Johnson Lithographing Company, first to run errands and carry packages. Later, he was given the opportunity to learn the trade and remained with the concern for six years, at the end of that period going to St. Louis for ten months and to Kansas City for two years and two months. Returning to Chicago, in 1890, he embarked in business on his own account as a member of the firm of Mathison & Wagner, but in the following year moved the plant to Grand Rapids, where the name of Grand Rapids Lithographing Company was assumed. In 1911 he severed his connection therewith and sold his interest, subsequently becoming one of the organizers of the Michigan Lithographing Com-

Hosted by Google

pany, the first officials of which were: A. D. Rathbone, president; Mr. Mathison, vice-president and general manager, and W. E. Raiguel, secretary and treasurer. The first incorporation papers were for $10,000, but this has been successively advanced until it is now an $80,000 concern. L. D. Darby has since replaced Mr. Raiguel as secretary and treasurer. As noted, Mr. Mathison is an authority in his line and is widely and favorably known in the trade. He takes an active part in civic affairs as a member of the Association of Commerce and the Greater Grand Rapids Association, but has not sought official honors, and his political activities have been principally confined to casting his vote for the candidates of the Republican party. He is an Elk and a Thirty-second Degree Mason, and belongs to the Peninsular, Highlands, Plainfield and Grandview Automobile clubs, as well as to the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Mathison was married, Aug. 20, 1900, to Miss Rhoda Mills, daughter of John Mills, of Lowell, Mich., and she died March 31, 1916, leaving a son, Gerald W., a student at the Howe Military School, Howe, Ind.

Reuben Maurits, M. D.—The professional career of Dr. Reuben Maurits, of Grand Rapids, has covered a period of a quarter of a century, in which time he has steadily advanced to a foremost place among the medical practitioners of Kent county. His accomplishments in the field of general practice have been noteworthy, but he is probably best known in scientific medicine for his achievements as an anæsthetist, in which connection he has gained much more than a local reputation. Doctor Maurits was born in the village of Vriesland, Ottawa county, Michigan, Oct. 29, 1870, and is the youngest of a family of twelve children born to William J. and Margaret (Rychel) Maurits. His parents, who were natives of Holland, were young unmarried people when they came to the United States as members of a colony of their countrymen who settled at Grand Rapids in 1847. Two years later occurred the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Maurits, who, during the next twenty years, continued to make their home at Grand Rapids, William J. Maurits successfully following his trade of carpenter and builder and eventually developing into a substantial business man engaged in contracting. About the year 1869 they moved to Ottawa county, where, in the vicinity of Vriesland, they settled on a farm, and there continued to pass the remainder of their active lives. When they had reached advanced years they retired from farming activities and moved to Zeeland and later to Grand Rapids, in which city they rounded out their useful and well-ordered lives and both passed away. They were highly esteemed in their community as honest, industrious, God-fearing people, kind neighbors and excellent citizens, who brought their children up to lives of honesty and industry and fitted them to take honorable positions among their fellow men. Of the twelve children of this worthy couple, those who now survive are Antonia, Joseph, Peter, Maud and Reuben. Reuben Maurits attended the public school in the vicinity of the home farm in Ottawa county and passed much of his boyhood in assisting his father and brothers in the cultivation of the broad and fertile acres. Later, he attended Hope College, at Holland, Mich., where he took a course in literature and the classics, and entered the medical department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, being graduated there

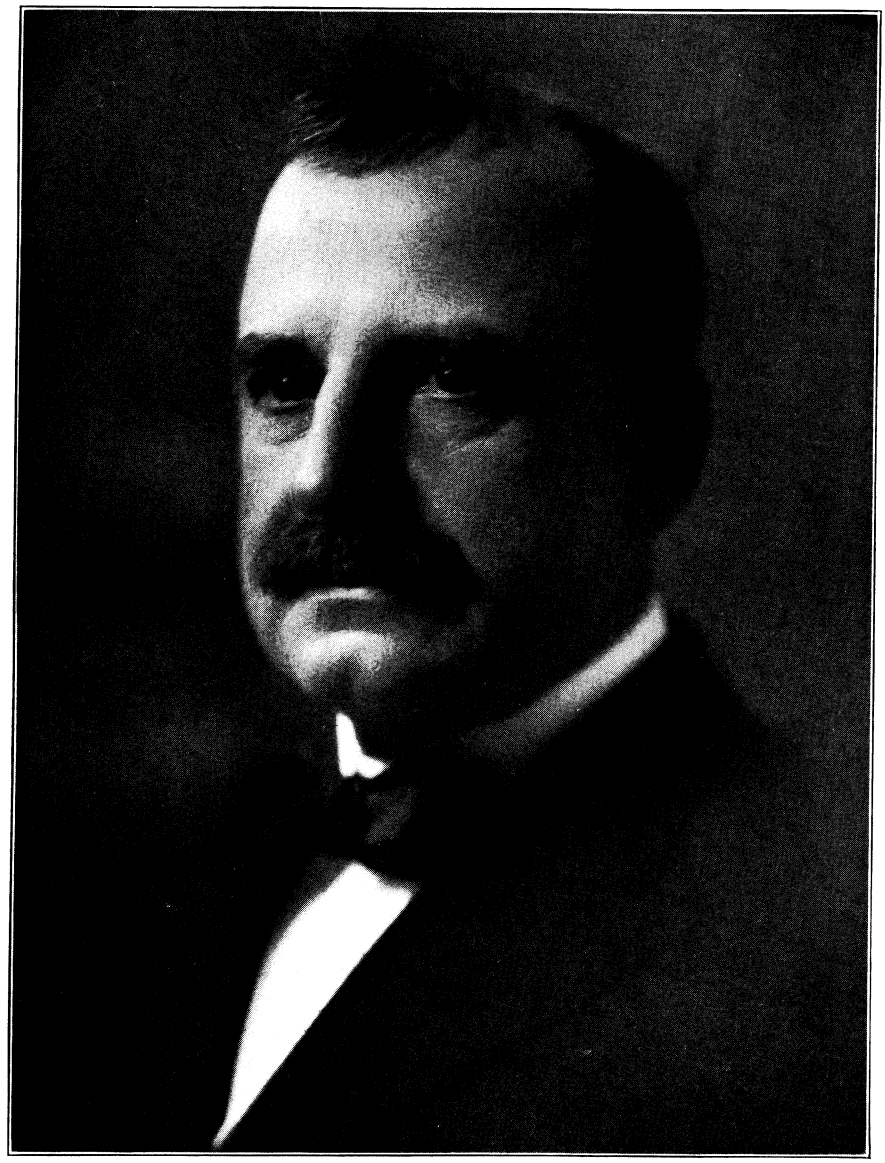
Hosted by Google

with his degree in 1892. He immediately began practice at Grand Rapids, where, by his skill, konwledge and success, he soon attracted to himself a remunerative practice, which grew steadily in size and importance. Until 1908 he was engaged in general practice, but in that year began to devote himself as a specialist in anæsthetics, a subject to which he had given a great deal of time, thought and study for some years. He was the first to use in Grand Rapids, about the year 1909, the nitrous oxide-oxygen anæsthetic, and has won a deservedly high place in this field of medical science. Dr. Maurits is a member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society, the American Medical Association and the American Association of Anæsthetics, and has served as visiting surgeon to the Kent county infirmary for a number of years, having been elected to that office as a Republican by the Kent county board of commissioners. He has also served as county coroner two years. Fraternally, he is a Mason, and his social connections include membership in the Knickerbocker and Kiwanis clubs, Highlands Country club and the O-wash-ta-nong club. Thanksgiving Day. Nov. 25, 1897, Dr. Maurits was married, at Chicago, Ill., to Miss Angeline De Bey, who was born in the Illinois metropolis, a daughter of the late Dr. William and Eva (Takken) De Bey, and a granddaughter of Rev. Dr. De Bey, of Chicago, who was for many years an active and progressive worker in the Reformed church there. Mrs. De Bey, mother of Mrs. Maurits, was born in Holland, but has been for a number of years a resident of Grand Rapids, where she makes her home with her daughter and son-in-law. Mrs. Maurits is a lady of culture, refinement and advanced education, being a graduate of the Chicago High School and the Cook County Normal School, and for two years was a teacher at Chicago and for a like period in the schools of Grand Rapids, prior to her marriage. Dr. and Mrs. Maurits are the parents of one child, Marguerite Evangeline. They are consistent members and generous supporters of the First Reformed church of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Maurits is an accomplished vocalist (soprano) and is leader of the quartet in the M. E. church. She is a member of the St. Cecelia Society and of the Ladies Literary club.

Edgar G. Maxwell.—In 1899 the retired colony of Grand Rapids was augmented by the arrival in this city of Edgar G. Maxwell, who, during a long period of years, had been identified with the lumber business of Western Michigan. From that time until his death, in 1915, he was not associated actively with any business organization, although maintaining an interest in commercial and industrial affairs, while he took an interested participation in the social and civic life of the community and established numerous friendships that have served to preserve the memory of his residence in the Furniture City. Mr. Maxwell was born, Feb. 2, 1843, at Thompkins, Delaware county, New York, a son of Silas and Polly (Carpenter) Maxwell, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Delaware county, New York. The parents, who were agricultural people, passed their entire lives in the East and there died. Edgar G. Maxwell was reared as an agriculturist and received his education in the country public scchools in the vicinity of his birth. When he left school, he began working as his father's assistant on the home farm, but when he

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



F. E. A. Maynard

Hosted by Google

reached his majority decided to seek his fortune in the West and accordingly came to Michigan, where he secured employment in a lumber camp on Pentwater river, in Oceana county. Industrious and thrifty, he worked with the determination of becoming an employer of labor on his own account, and applied his energies so well that before many years had passed he was able to establish himself as a proprietor in the lumber business, in partnership with a Mr. Sands. Their business, located at Pentwater, grew and flourished under their energetic management, until they were the owners of several mills and allied interests, to the development of which Mr. Maxwell applied himself until his retirement, in 1899. At that time he came to Grand Rapids with his family, and lived quietly here until his death, June 27, 1915. Mr. Maxwell was a Republican, and took an interest in the success of his party, although not as a seeker for personal preferment. After coming to Grand Rapids he attended the Fountain Street Baptist church and at the time of his death was a member of the board of trustees. He held membership also in the Plainfield Country and Peninsular clubs and in the Association of Commerce. Mr. Maxwell was married, Nov. 27, 1879, to Melinda A., daughter of Obediah and Dianitia (Mallard) Sands, of Belvidere, Ill. By a former marriage Mr. Maxwell became the father of two children: Jessie, widow of Robert Babcock, of Oak Park, Ill., and Ora, wife of P. A. Van Black, also of that place. Mrs. Maxwell, who survives her husband is one of the well known ladies of Grand Rapids, and resides in the comfortable family home at No. 415 Madison avenue, S. E.

Hon. Fred Augustus Maynard.—The long and uniformly successful career of Hon. Fred Augustus Maynard as a member of the Michigan bar began at Grand Rapids, in 1876. Since that time he has been the recipient of many honors at the hands of his fellow citizens, having been elected to exalted positions within the gift of the people and having served with marked distinction in appointive offices. For more than forty years he has been in active practice, and still keeps an open office, gives consultations, writes opinions, and tries cases and argues causes with unabated vigor of mind, and with the authority which long experience, solid learning, and matured judgment bring. Mr. Maynard was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., Jan. 20, 1852, a son of John Wesley and Mary (Wilcoxon) Maynard. His early education was secured in the public schools of Ann Arbor, following which he entered the University of Michigan, being graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, in 1874, and two years later with the degree of Bachelor of Laws, without examination. Later, he was given the degree of Master of Arts by that institution. Coming to Grand Rapids in 1875, from 1877 to 1879 he was assistant prosecuting attorney of Kent county, his law partner, Capt. Stephen H. Ballard, being prosecuting attorney at the time. Mr. Maynard succeeded Captain Ballard, in 1881, and served until 1883. In 1885 he was a candidate for the position of Judge of the Superior Court of Grand Rapids, and was defeated by fifty-two votes. In 1886 he declined the nomination for State Senator, and in 1888 he became Michigan's candidate for the office of governor of Alaska, having the unanimous support of the Michigan delegation. President Harrison decided to appoint him, but upon learning from Senators McMillan and Stockbridge that Mr. Maynard was only

Hosted by Google

thirty-six years of age he reversed his decision. In 1890 Mr. Maynard accepted the nomination of representative in the State legislature and under the cumulative voting law which had just been passed, he was elected; but the law was held to be unconstitutional by the Supreme Court and as a result he was not permitted to take his seat. In 1894 he was elected to the position of attorney-general of the State of Michigan and served in that office with distinguished ability for a period of four years. In 1899 he was a candidate before the Republican State convention for the position of Supreme Court Justice, but was defeated on the sixth ballot by the then Chief Justice Grant. In June, 1901, Mr. Maynard was appointed special assistant to the Attorney-General of the United States, to whom he gave great aid in securing convictions against the offenders in the famous Government Land Fraud cases. While thus connected, Governor Osborn appointed him one of the circuit judges for the county of Kent, but Mr. Maynard declined the appointment, feeling that he had not completed his work for the National government. On Jan. 1, 1914, however, he resigned his position and returned to private practice. Mr. Maynard is a member of the Michigan State Bar Association, and of the American Bar Association. He also holds membership in the Association of Commerce, the Peninsular and Highlands Golf clubs, and the Sons of the American Revolution, three of his great-grandfathers having fought as soldiers of the patriot army in the winning of American independence. He has always been a stalwart Republican, and his religious connection is with the Episcopal church. Mr. Maynard's professional life has been passed upon the highest plane of a lawyer's work. Early taking prominent rank, he soon attracted to himself a clientage of the most valuable kind which falls to the lot of a lawyer. The largest interests have been entrusted to his care and guidance, and his success in their management has been evinced by the command of a volume of business which has been bounded only by the limits of his own time and inclination. Mr. Maynard was married, Oct. 24, 1878, to Charlotte Augusta, daughter of James M. and Aba Gray (Bridge) Nelson, of Grand Rapids, and of this union there have been born two children: Helen, who is the wife of Lieut. Gordon Ireland, an attorney, of New York City, and has two children—Frederick and Elizabeth; and James Nelson, who is successfully engaged in business in New York City.

Michael McAndrews, who for many years has been identified with the agricultural industry in Kent county, is a well known, enterprising and progressive farmer, who, starting out in life at the age of fourteen years, has since been entirely dependent upon his own resources, gaining all that he now possesses through his own energy and business ability. At this time he is owner of 156 acres of good farming land in Vergennes township, his residence being on the Lowell rural route No. 5, and in his community he is recognized as a worth-while and dependable citizen and a friend of the institutions of education and progress. Mr. McAndrews was born in Grandville, Ontario, Canada, son of Martin and Mary (Morn) McAndrews. His parents, natives of Ireland, were reared, educated and married there, and in middle age emigrated to Canada, where they settled on a farm. The remaining years of their lives were passed in the pursuits

Hosted by Google

of the soil and they were known as honest, industrious people, who brought from across the waters the best traits of the race from which they sprang. Both are now deceased. Their children were eight in number: Michael, John, Ed, Thomas, William, Elizabeth, Ellen and Anna. Michael McAndrews was given only limited educational advantages in the locality of his birth and much of his boyhood was filled with hard work, which bred in him a respect for the value of honest labor and gave him self-reliance to aid him in his later battles with life. When he was but fourteen years of age he left the parental roof and came to Michigan, where he began to make his own way in various employments at East Saginaw and Pentwater. Two years later he went to Harrison, in which vicinity he secured a position on the farm of D. A. Blodgett, and there continued for a period of nine years. At that time Mr. McAndrews acquired a desire to see the West and accordingly went to Butte City, Mont., but after eleven months spent working in the mines he returned to Michigan, and, locating near Lowell, in Kent county, rented his present farm. The next ten years were ones of constant struggle, but his perseverance and determination finally won over all obstacles and he was able to purchase his farm, which now includes 156 acres of some of the best land to be found in Vergennes township. Almost without exception, he has devoted his energies to general farming and his labors have been met with well-merited success. Modern methods find in him a stalwart adherent and his buildings, equipment and appurtenances evidence, in their modernity, his progressive ideas and spirit. In his dealings with his fellow-men in the way of business he has been straightforward and fair, and this fact has given him a sound reputation for integrity. He has willingly and efficiently discharged the duties of citizenship and for some years was a member of the township board of school directors. Mr. McAndrews is a Catholic in his religious faith and is fraternally affiliated with the Knights of Columbus. He was married, Sept. 12, 1893, to Mary, daughter of John Delany, of Kent county. They have no children.

Right Reverend John Newton McCormick.—It is generally accepted as an undoubted and self-evident truth that no man of acknowledged ability or genius can be adequately judged while in the midst of life's activities, chiefly because time is necessary to ripen the estimate upon work which can only be viewed on all sides in the calm atmosphere of a more or less remote period from its completion. This is in no way inappropriate to the life of Rt. Rev. John Newton McCormick, Protestant Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, who has long occupied a conspicuous place in the religious history of the State, to which he first came, in 1898, as rector of Saint Mark's church at Grand Rapids. No man in the community has had warmer friends or is more generally esteemed. He is a man of refinement and culture, greatly traveled, of fine executive ability, and one who has made a splendid success of his life work. Bishop McCormick was born, Feb. 1, 1863, at Richmond, Va., a son of John and Virginia (Newton) McCormick. He received his early education at Stuart Hall, Baltimore, Md., and then entered Randolph-Macon College, where he pursued a literary and theological course and graduated, in 1883, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. In 1884 he was ordained

Hosted by Google

to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and from 1886 to 1888 took post-graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, at Baltimore. In 1903 the University of the South conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. Bishop McCormick's first work in the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church was as pastor at Frederick, Md., where he had a charge from 1884 until the latter part of 1885. Next, he went to Arlington, Md., where he remained from 1885 to 1887, and in 1888 and 1889 he was pastor of Trinity Church, Baltimore, Md. Next, from 1890 to 1891, he had a pastorate at Winchester, Va., and in 1893 was ordained a deacon and in 1894 a priest of the Protestant Episcopal church. During the years 1893, 1894 and part of 1895, he was rector of Saint Paul's church, at Suffolk, Va., and from 1895 to 1898 of Saint Luke's, Atlanta, Ga. The latter year saw Bishop McCormick's arrival at Grand Rapids, whence he came to take charge as rector of Saint Mark's church, with which he continued until 1906. On Feb. 14 of the latter year he was consecrated bishop coadjutor, Diocese of Western Michigan, and March 19, 1909, became bishop of the diocese on the death of Bishop Gillespie. There has been great power in Bishop McCormick's life; great strength in his character. If its secret is sought, the source of his strength, it may be found in his exceptional unselfishness and in the vivid consciousness that he is the servant of Him who came not to be ministered unto but to minister. A man of scholarly attainments, he possesses marked literary ability and a forceful and vivid style, among the best known of his works being "Distinctive Marks of the Episcopal Church" (1902, "The Litany and the Life" (1904), "Pain and Sympathy" (1907), and "Good News from a Far Country" (1910). His social qualities make him a welcome guest in every circle, he being a popular and valued member of the University club, Chicago, and the Kent Country and Peninsular clubs, Grand Rapids, and his tact and dignity make him approachable to those whose outlook on life differs entirely from his own, Bishop McCormick always being able to find some bit of common ground on which they can stand as human beings. Among his warm and admiring friends are men in every station of life, and that those high in public and social life have treasured his friendship is to their credit and not of his seeking. Bishop McCormick was united in marriage, Oct. 9, 1889, with Miss Bessie Chapman Tucker, of Baltimore, Md.

Gilbert McCutcheon.—Sand Lake, in the extreme northern part of Kent county, is the home of many flourishing business houses which furnish the large contiguous territory with the necessities and comforts of life, and one of these is the coal and lumber business conducted by Gilbert McCutcheon. Mr. McCutcheon has been a resident of this locality for a half a century and has become well known to its citizens as a substantial citizen, while his business, in which he engaged in 1905, has become recognized as a necessary commercial adjunct. Gilbert McCutcheon was born in Chemung county, New York, May 16, 1864, and was five years of age when brought to Michigan by his parents. His father was an agriculturist of Kent county and the youth grew up amid farm surroundings, his education being secured in the district schools. When he entered upon his independent career he followed various pursuits for a time

Hosted by Google

until turning his attention to the coal and lumber business, and in 1905 founded his present establishment, having since built up a trade that extends far into the surrounding territory. Mr. McCutcheon has never aspired to any office, being primarily and entirely a business man, but is accounted a good citizen, who has the interests of his community at heart and is ready to support progressive and beneficial movements. He is a member of Howard City Lodge of Masons, in which he has numerous friends. His political belief makes him a Republican.

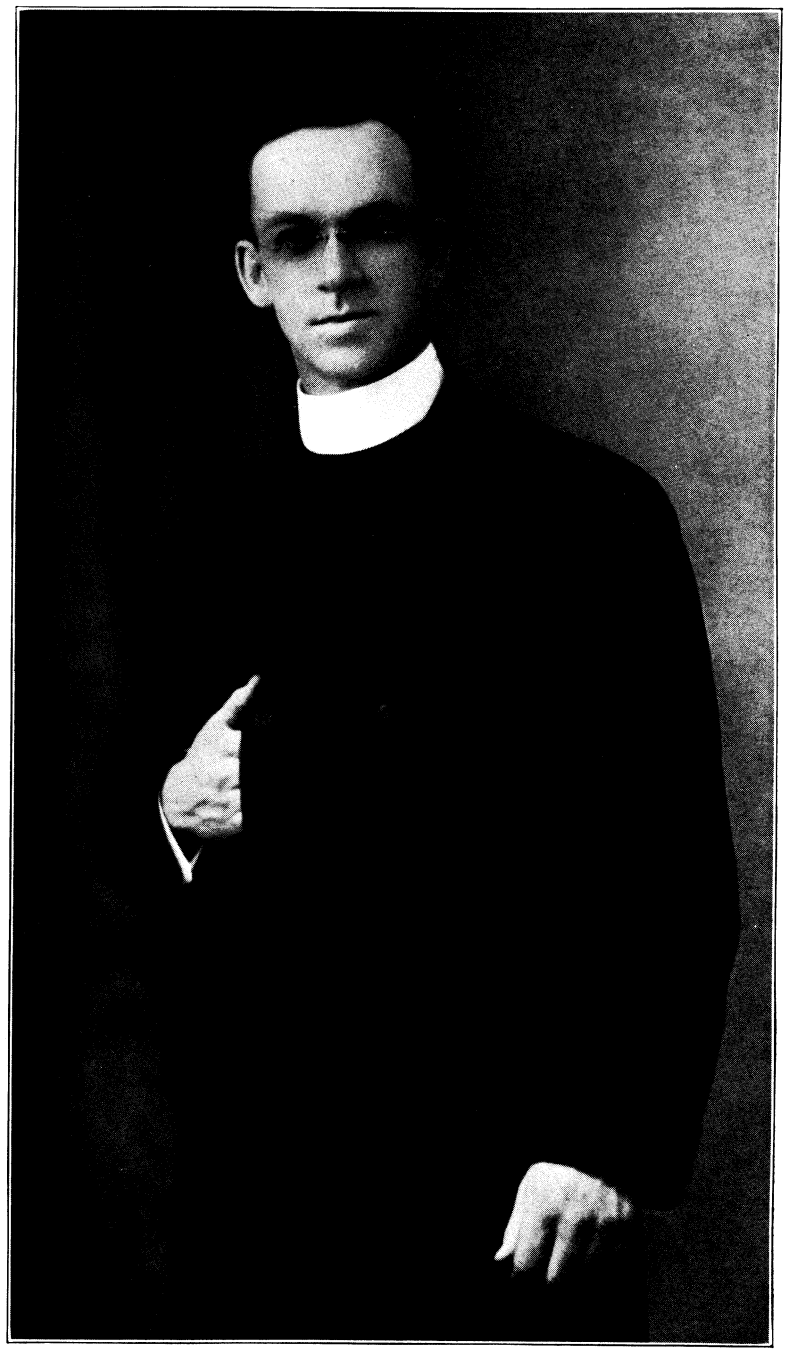
Richard T. McGee.—Prominent among the energetic, far-seeing and successful agriculturists who have had their homes in Kent county was the late Richard T. McGee, whose entire life was passed in Vergennes township. Integrity, activity and energy were the crowning points of his success, and his connection with agricultural affairs was of decided advantage to his community, promoting its material welfare in no uncertain manner. While he did not rise to marked position in public or political life, his industrious career as a tiller of the soil makes his name well worthy of mention among the representative men of his county. Richard T. McGee was born in Vergennes township, April 9, 1863, a member of an old and respected family of this region and a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Connerty) McGee, of Ireland, who came to the United States and lived at Kalamazoo, and later in Kent county, where they followed farming in Vergennes township. Of their seven children only two are living—Rose Bergen and George. Richard T. McGee received his education in the district schools and was brought up on the home farm, where he worked while not engaged at his studies and learned thoroughly the vocation of agriculturist in all its particulars. He entered upon his independent career well equipped to compete with others as a farmer, and that his labors were rewarded with success is shown in the fact that he accumulated 350 acres and was still in the prime of life when his labors ended. While general farming occupied the greater part of his attention he was also skilled as a stock-raiser, making a specialty of Percheron horses, for which he was always able to find a ready market and command an excellent price. His business affairs were handled with sagacity and judgment and were carried on in such an honorable and straightforward way that Mr. McGee's name became synonymous with honesty and integrity. Reared in the faith of the Catholic church, he lived his religion, and his support was given to institutions for the advancement of church, school and citizenship. He supported the Democratic party stalwartly, without expectation or wish of favor at the hands of that organization, but merely because he felt its principles were right. When he died, April 9, 1916, his community lost a man who had been a strong and reliable part of its daily life and who in passing left behind him an honorable record of accomplishment. The marriage of Mr. McGee occurred May 12, 1891, when he was united with Anna, daughter of Patrick and Bridget (North) Murphy, of Ireland, County Wexford, who came to the United States in 1866, and settled in Vergennes township. Twelve children were born to Patrick Murphy and wife, and those living are Mary, John, Thomas, Catherine, Anna, Farinus and Essie. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. McGee was born a daughter, Lillian.

Hosted by Google

Mrs. McGee, who survives her husband and resides on the farm, is one of the well known and highly esteemed ladies of her community, where she has many warm and appreciative friends.

Rev. Oswald T. McGinn.—It is impossible to estimate the lasting good or powerful influence toward moral uplift and a true Christian mode of living as illustrated in the life and labors of Rev. Oswald T. McGinn, priest of the Holy Name Catholic church, who for eleven years has given his church and people the benefit of his eloquence, profound knowledge of human nature, and his understanding study. A man of gentle disposition, he nevertheless has prosecuted vigorously his campaign against sin of all kinds, and never has hesitated to warn in words of power anyone whom he has felt has needed admonition, no matter what his station in life. While still a young man, only approaching his prime, he has already accomplished much, and his recent addition to the citizenship of Grand Rapids will undoubtedly be of lasting value to the city. Father McGinn was born at Cheboygan, Mich., Dec. 25, 1878, a son of Thomas P. and Emily (O'Reilly) McGinn. His parents were both born in this country, though of Irish descent, and for a number of years Thomas P. McGinn was a police judge at Cheboygan, where his death occurred. Mrs. McGinn, who survives her husband, is now making her home with her son at Grand Rapids. As a lad, Oswald T. McGinn attended the parochial schools of Cheboygan, and acceding to his parents' wishes as well as following his own inclinations early determined upon entering the priesthood of the Catholic church. He secured further training at St. Gregory's Preparatory Seminary, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1902 enrolled as a student at the Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada, where he followed and completed the duly prescribed course. He was ordained, May 21, 1907, by Bishop Richter, and his first charge was at Grand Rapids, where for three and one-half years he served in the capacity of assistant. Next he was sent to Onaway, Mich., as pastor of St. Paul's church, remaining there for six years and, Feb. 15, 1917, became pastor of Holy Name church, returning to Grand Rapids, where he has since continued his energetic and successful labors. This parish was established in August, 1908, when it was taken from St. Andrew's parish. During the nine years of its existence it has grown and developed rapidly, and now includes about 140 families, while there are 130 pupils in the parochial school, these being taught by six Sisters of Mercy from Mount Mercy, Mich. It is an English-speaking congregation for the greater part and includes some of the most representative families of the city. Eloquent to a marked degree, Father McGinn has been able to bring home to his hearers the mighty truths he preaches in a powerful manner. He is the true type of the Catholic priest, one who wins not only the friendship, but the entire confidence, respect and admiration of those who have the privilege of belonging to his congregation. He is a great student and is able to bring home the lessons in a way that touches those who listen to his glowing words. His life work has not ended with his talks to his people, however, for he has lived in his daily duties the Christianity he professes, and by example as well as by spoken word teaches the beauty of Christlike living. Father McGinn is the second in a family of five children, the others

Hosted by Google



REV. OSWALD T. McGINN

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

being as follows: Arthur C., who is a resident of Cheboygan, Mich.; Rupert A., who is the present state tax commissioner and resides at Detroit, Mich.; Kyran E., who intends to enter the priesthood of the Catholic church and with that end in view is attending the Grand Theological Seminary, at Montreal, Canada, and Benedict H., graduate of Grand Rapids High School, in which he was director of its orchestra, and he was also director of the Holy Name band. He resides with his brother, Father McGinn.

William F. McKnight.—Among the members of the Grand Rapids bar was found the late William F. McKnight, an able, upright, honored and successful lawyer, who through ability, culture and experience, long held a front place in the ranks of his profession, and was recognized as a man of more than local reputation. He was a member of one of Kent county's old families and was noted for many personal excellencies which, throughout a wide acquaintance, made him known as an embodiment of the term "gentleman" in its highest significance. Mr. McKnight was born on a farm in Cascade township, Kent county, Michigan, July 23, 1863, son of Thomas and Mary (Fitzpatrick) McKnight. His paternal grandfather, James McKnight, was born in Ireland, and about the year 1833 came to the United States, locating first in Kentucky, where he was foreman on the plantation of Henry Clay. About the year 1845 he removed with his family to Michigan, settling on a farm in Cascade township, and there rounded out a long and honorable career in agricultural pursuits. Mrs. McKnight, who bore the maiden name of Mary Quinn, was a woman of many fine attainments and a graduate of the medical department of the University of Dublin, Ireland. She also passed away on the old homestead in Kent county. Thomas McKnight was born in Ireland and educated in the city of Dublin, still being a youth when he accompanied his parents to America. After coming to Kent county, Michigan, he adopted the vocation of farming, which he followed with success throughout the period of his active career. He retired about 1905 and from that time forward lived quietly until his death, in November, 1914. Mr. McKnight was married at Kalamazoo, Mich., to Mary Fitzpatrick, who died in 1876, and they became the parents of seven children: John J., who still lives on the old homestead in Cascade township; Thomas J., of Berlin, Mich.; William F.; Lawrence Frank, who died in 1912; Dr. Edward E., a practicing physician at Alpena, Mich.; Mary, deceased, and Charles A., a resident of Los Angeles, Cal. William F. McKnight attended the common schools of Cascade township until he was sixteen years of age, at which time he began teaching in the country schools. After being thus engaged for two terms he entered the Valparaiso (Ind.) Normal School, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1884, and for two terms thereafter was superintendent of schools at Kankakee, Ill. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan and received his Bachelor of Laws degree with the class of 1887, and in the following year was admitted to the bar, at Grand Rapids. Until 1890 he was a law partner of G. Chase Godwin and Allen C. Adsit, but in that year he was elected prosecuting attorney of Kent county, Mr. Adsit was elected to the bench and Mr. Godwin died, and thus the firm was dissolved. Next he was with T. F. McGarry until 1895, when he became associated with James T.

Hosted by Google

McAllister, under the firm name of McKnight & McAllister, his brother, L. F. McKnight, being a member of the firm. The association continued until 1910, after which time Mr. McKnight practiced alone until his death, which occurred May 19, 1918. He engaged in general practice, with offices in the Michigan Trust building, and the largest interests entrusted him with their litigation. In its handling he was called into all the courts. Mr. McKnight belonged to the Michigan State Bar Association and the American Bar Association and his reputation among his fellow-practitioners and members in these bodies was that of a lawyer who always observed and lived up to the highest ethics of the calling. He belonged to the Association of Commerce and was well known in club life, having long been identified with the Peninsular and O-wash-ta-nong clubs and the Highlands Country club. Mr. McKnight was connected also with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, as a life member of Grand Rapids lodge, and with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Knights of Columbus, while his religious affiliation was with St. Andrew's Catholic church. For seven years he was a member of Company B, Grand Rapids battery, of the Michigan National Guard. A stanch Democrat, and known for many years as one of the strong men in his party, Mr. McKnight's acquaintance was extensive among public men, one of his personal friends being William J. Bryan. At the time of Mr. Bryan's last candidacy for the presidency, Mr. McKnight, with Senators White of California and Blackburn of Kentucky, was appointed on a committee to wait upon the Nebraska statesman and arrange the time and place for the announcement of his nomination. Mr. McKnight was married, Aug. 20, 1907, to Anna, daughter of John Caulfield, of Grand Rapids.

Frank J. McMahon.—One of the most important of the departments connected with the public service is that which has to do with the lighting and power of the country. In all the larger villages and cities industry is practically dependent upon its lighting and power facilities, and the position of superintendent of such a plant is therefore a decidedly responsible one. The thriving community of Lowell is fortunate in having at the head of its power and lighting system such an able manager as Frank J. McMahon, who has occupied this position for eighteen years, during which time, in spite of unavoidable reverses, the plant has been self-supporting and has never cost the taxpayers one cent. The Lowell Municipal Light & Power plant was organized in 1896 as a village corporation, and its dam, eight miles north of the village, also furnishes power for the village of Belding. On two occasions the dam has burst, causing great damage and necessitating the expenditure of much money, but on each occasion service has been resumed with only a slight delay, and the money in the treasury has been sufficient to cover the loss without the necessity of calling upon the taxpayers for aid. New machinery had been installed in a new fire-proof building when, Dec. 31, 1916, this building was destroyed by water undermining the foundations, and it has since been replaced by another new building with modern machinery and appliances in every detail. This work cost in the neighborhood of $60,000, but the plant is financially sound, and the plant has furnished the city with free lighting since the time of its

Hosted by Google

inception. From seven to ten men are employed in the plant, including the clerical force. Frank J. McMahon, superintendent of the Lowell Light & Power Plant, was born July 13, 1875, in Vergennes township, Kent county, Michigan, son of Owen and Margaret (Byrnes) McMahon, and a grandson of Irish immigrants who located in New York. In that state his parents were born and came as a young married couple to Vergennes township, where Owen McMahon engaged in farming until his death, in 1897, his widow now being a resident of Lowell. There were eight children in the family: Mrs. Mary McGee, of Lowell; Maggie, deceased; Arthur, of Lowell; Frank J.; Mrs. Katherine Ronau, of Grand Rapids; James, of Lowell, connected with the power plant; Mrs. Elizabeth Lally, of Lowell; and Charles, with a bank at Detroit, Mich. Frank J. McMahon received his education in the public schools of Vergennes township and the Lowell high school, and began his business experience with the grocery conducted by Christ Bergin, with which he was connected twelve years. At the end of that time, in 1900, he accepted his present office, and this he has held without interruption to the present time. An efficient official, thoroughly conversant with every detail of the work of the plant, he has held the confidence of the public and has always vindicated the faith which they have reposed in him. Mr. McMahon was for several years village treasurer of Lowell. He is an independent voter, and a member of the Board of Trade, and is fraternally connected with the Knights of Columbus, at Grand Rapids; Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and Loyal Lodge, Loyal Order of Moose. With his family, he belongs to St. Mary's Catholic church, at Lowell. Mr. McMahon was married, Oct. 18, 1897, to Lotta, only child of George and Elizabeth (McWilliams) Sayer, natives of Canada, who came to Michigan as young people, Mrs. Sayer still being a resident of Lowell. Mr. and Mrs. McMahon have four children: Marion, born April 8, 1903; Byrne, March 18, 1906; Roger, April 7, 1911; and Bruce, May 17, 1915.

Charles McPherson.—Among the law firms of Grand Rapids which have come rapidly to the forefront during recent years, one of the most prominent is that of Norris, McPherson, Harrington & Waer, with offices in the Grand Rapids Savings Bank building. In this association is found Charles McPherson, who by reason of sound ability, versatility and comprehensive training for his profession has taken a leading place in the ranks of the fraternity of Kent county. He is a native son of Michigan, having been born on a farm in Eckford township, Calhoun county, Dec. 2, 1873, his parents being William and Katherine (Walker) McPherson, who came from Livingston county, New York, in 1867, and spent the rest of their lives in farming in Calhoun county. Charles McPherson was educated at Marshall high school and Albion college, in which latter institution he was graduated with the class of 1895, and at that time became a student of law in the office of Mark Norris, at Grand Rapids. He was admitted to the bar in 1898 and remained with Mr. Norris until 1900, when he went to Detroit and entered the legal department of the Pere Marquette railway. His experience in this connection lasted over a period of ten years, following which he spent one year in work of a special nature at Manistee, and then, in 1911, he returned

Hosted by Google

to Grand Rapids and rejoined Mr. Norris, forming the firm of Norris & McPherson. With the admission of Leon W. Harrington, in 1912, the concern became Norris, McPherson & Harrington, and in 1913 the style was changed to its present nomenclature, when Oscar Waer became a partner. These lawyers have made choice of no special branch of the law, for they possess that mental grasp that makes it an easy matter for them to discover the salient points in any case, and consequently a general practice is carried on by the firm. From the time he began practice Mr. McPherson's ability and ready resource made considerable mark for him in his profession. Every case he took charge of was conducted conscientiously and most carefully, and while he has a natural courage sufficient to provide him with resource in any emergency, yet ample preparation is bestowed whenever the opportunity is accorded. He is a good speaker and has that peculiarly effective power which is the result of a clever understanding of the circumstances, and an earnest conviction of the justice of the case. Mr. McPherson is a member of the Grand Rapids and Michigan State Bar associations. Among his professional brethren he is held in the very highest regard, for his acquirements command their respect and confidence. He was married, Sept. 30, 1903, to Miss Helen Mitchell, of Toronto, Canada.

George L. Medes.—One of the important commercial assets of any live community is the modern laundry. In these days, when cleanliness and sanitation are considered necessary adjuncts to right living and healthful conditions, such establishments as the U. S. Laundry, of Grand Rapids, have their recognized place in every locality, and when this enterprise was founded, in 1911, it filled a long-felt want. The proprietor of this laundry, George L. Medes, is a progressive business man, who has made his own way and has achieved success through his own efforts and abilities. He was born in Cortland county, New York, April 1, 1862, son of Edwin and Augusta (Wood) Medes, who came to Michigan about 1869 and located in Montcalm county, where the father was engaged in mercantile business. George L. Medes received his early education in the public schools of Montcalm county and came to Grand Rapids to attend business college. When he had completed his course, he accepted a position as bookkeeper for the Jenning & Smith Extract Company. He subsequently became connected with the Chippewa Lumber Company at Chippewa Lake, Mecosta county, as bookkeeper, and after the company discontinued their operations, he accepted a position with Bradley & Kelly, of Milwaukee, Wis. After a period of about two years he became one of the organizers of the Herold-Bertsch Company, of Grand Rapids, and subsequently was with the Caffon & Bertsch Leather Company, of Holland, Mich., until that firm sold out to Armour & Company, in 1910. In 1911 Mr. Medes came back to Grand Rapids, this time to establish himself permanently in business. Here he erected a one-story building, 80x100 feet, at 542-552 Division avenue, South, in which he installed laundry machinery of the latest invention and threw open the doors of the U. S. Laundry to the public. Since that time he has enjoyed an ever-increasing patronage, attracted by good workmanship and a policy of honesty and straightforward dealing, and at this time forty people are employed and five wagons are necessary to make collections and

Hosted by Google

deliveries. Mr. Medes is an example of the self-made man who has recognized his opportunities and made the most of them in a legitimate way. He has an excellent standing in business circles and is respected alike by his associates and competitors. Politically, he votes the Republican ticket, and fraternally he is a Mason, belonging to the Chapter at Holland, Mich. He was married, Sept. 19, 1887, to Rose A. Bole, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of a daughter, Harriet Rose, a graduate of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, class of 1918.

A. H. Meeker.—The appointment of A. H. Meeker to the postmastership at Sparta, in 1914, came after many years of successful business operations in this thriving village of Kent county. Mr. Meeker's career has been one in which he has engaged in a number of lines of endeavor, in each of which he attained a creditable success. During the time that he has been an active factor in commercial affairs, it has been his fortune to have built up a substantial reputation for straightforward dealing and honesty of purpose, and his services in his public capacity has but resulted in strengthening his hold upon the public confidence. Mr. Meeker is a product of the agricultural community of Sparta township, Kent county, Michigan, and was born June 6, 1852, son of Allan and Electa M. (Hilton) Meeker. His parents, natives respectively of New York and Ohio, came to Kent county as young people and were married there, in 1849, following which they settled on a farm in Sparta township. They were industrious, hard-working and God-fearing people, who passed their lives in the pursuits of agriculture and when they died left behind many friends in the community, where they had been greatly esteemed and respected. They were the parents of three children: A. H., David and Ella. A. H. Meeker received his education in the public schools of Sparta township and the high school at Lisbon, where he spent three years. As a boy and youth he spent much of his time assisting his father in the work of the home farm, but eventually decided to enter mercantile lines and accordingly went to Lisbon, where he became proprietor of a meat market. Subsequently, he entered the hoop mill at Sparta and for a time was engaged in sawing hoops, after which he returned to the farm and remained for three years in tilling the soil. The call of the village and its business operations, however, proved too strong, and when he again left the parental roof it was to locate at Sparta, where he engaged in the produce and fruit business. From this occupation it was but a short step into the business of apple drying and handling fruit and produce, and this occupied his attention for several years. Mr. Meeker was thus engaged when, in 1914, he received the appointment from President Wilson as postmaster at Sparta, and this post he still retains. The people of this enterprising village have had no reason to complain of their mail service since Mr. Meeker's appointment, and as he is always courteous, obliging and efficient, he has added to his many friendships. Mr. Meeker is a Democrat and for a number of years has been accounted one of the strong and influential men of his party here, although he has worked principally for his friends rather than for himself. He is a supporter of good civic movements and has been variously connected with progressive civic bodies. Mr. Meeker was first married to Miss Ida Boorom, daughter of Anthony

Hosted by Google

and Sarah Boorom, of Kent county, and of this union was born a daughter, Blanche, who is the wife of George Baker, of Sparta. After the death of his first wife Mr. Meeker married Miss Nora Brown, and of this union have been born five children: Juanita, who is the wife of Ferris Reed and has a daughter, Doris; Inez, wife of Harvey A. Stebbins; Hilda and Donna, who reside with their parents, and one child died in infancy.

Jacob Earl Meengs, M. D.—The modern man of medicine shares in the progress of the age, for science has reached a degree bordering upon perfection in matters pertaining to his profession. Indeed, were it not that the man of the Twentieth century is developing new disorders by reason of his complicated activities and unnatural mode of life, doubtless the scientists could prevent decay and prolong life indefinitely. As it is, what in former years would have seemed miracles are being daily performed and methods approved that seem beyond the comprehension of the layman, however much he may benefit from their application to his individual case. One of the men who has attained to a high position among his contemporaries in the medical profession, not only as a practitioner in Kent county, but in the various societies to which he belongs, is Dr. Jacob Earl Meengs, of Grand Rapids. Dr. Meengs was born at Holland, Ottawa county, Michigan, Aug. 4, 1881, and is a son of Dirk Regnold and Henrietta (Bolhuis) Meengs, also natives of that place, and grandson of Hendrick Meengs, a native of the Netherlands, who founded the town of Holland upon his arrival in this country. Dirk R. Meengs was educated at Hope college, Holland, following which he opened a drug store at his native place and conducted it for several years. While thus engaged, he became interested in medicine and, eventually deciding to adopt the profession, commenced its study. He completed his education in this direction at Rush Medical college, in which he was graduated with the class of 1884, and from Chicago went to Muskegon, Mich., where he practiced until 1893. In that year he came to Grand Rapids and here has since been in the enjoyment of a constantly increasing practice, having made a place for himself among the leading practitioners of the city. He is a Republican and while a resident of Holland served for several years as city treasurer, and his fraternal connections are with the Knights of the Maccabees, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Foresters. Both he and Mrs. Meengs are members of the Dutch Reformed church. They have had three children: Anna Marie, Jacob Earl and Archibald, of whom Jacob E. is the only survivor. Jacob Earl Meengs attended the public schools of Grand Rapids and the Union high school to secure his preliminary education, following which he went to the University of Chicago and pursued a course, and then, like his father, to Rush Medical College for his medical degree, which he secured in 1904. In that year he commenced practice alone at Grand Rapids, where he remained until 1910, when he went to Alton, Ia., this being the scene of his endeavors for the next one and one-half years. In the latter part of 1911 he went to New York City, where, associated with Max Einhorn, he had charge of the German Hospital, a private institution, and in the fall of 1913 crossed the Atlantic and located at Berlin, Germany, where he was associated with Professor Ewald, at the Victoria Augusta Hospital, for four months. He next spent

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



C. H. Wiehtem

Hosted by Google

one month at Munich, following which he went to Vienna, Austria, and remained until March, 1914, being engaged in X-Ray work. On his way home he visited Heidelberg and Paris, and in June, 1914, arrived again in Grand Rapids, where he has since been specializing in diseases of the stomach and intestines. In his special field, Dr. Meengs has won high distinction, and as a member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society, and the American Medical Association, has contributed valuable ideas which have attracted considerable attention. While at Berlin, he was a member of the Anglo-American Medical Association. In politics, the Doctor is a Republican. He belongs to Westminster Presbyterian church, is a Mason and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is not bound by his professional knowledge, but is able to take a broad, humanitarian view of life and join with others in working towards effecting improvements that will raise the average man and woman and develop the best quality of citizenship.

Charles H. Mehrtens.—Becoming every year a more and more important industrial and commercial center, as well as a terminal point for railroads, the business interests of Grand Rapids have increased by leaps and bounds and its transient population has become of a magnitude which has been a constantly growing tax upon the capacity of its hotels. Thus it has devolved upon men of enterprise, courage and confidence in the city's development to supply hostelries for the accommodation of the city's guests, and one of these men in recent years was Charles H. Mehrtens, who built the New Hotel Mertens. Mr. Mehrtens, who proved himself a genial boniface, and was well known not only to the traveling public but to business men of Grand Rapids as a man of the highest ability and strictest integrity, has passed away, having been succeeded by Charles M. Luce as proprietor of the hotel. Charles H. Mehrtens was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, Aug. 9, 1857, and came to the United States at the age of fourteen years, locating at Sand Lake, Mich., where he worked in the shingle mills for a time. He was industrious and ambitious, carefully saved his earnings, and eventually engaged in business on his own account, in 1883, having as partners in his milling enterprise a Mr. Kinney and his brother, George Mehrtens. This association continued for about five years, when Mr. Mehrtens went to White Cloud, Mich., and had his first experience in hotel keeping, purchasing the Hotel Atlantic and Pacific, which he conducted successfully for about fourteen years. This was followed by one and one-half years in the same line at Albion, Mich., a short period at Detroit, and five years at Manistee, Mich., where he conducted the Dunham House. Coming then to Grand Rapids, he took over the Crathmore Hotel, of which he was the proprietor for seven years, at the end of which time he lived retired for one year, and when the New Hotel Mertens was finished he again took up business activities. He did not live long to enjoy the success which greeted his last venture, as his death occurred, Aug. 7, 1914. Mr. Mehrtens was a man who had an excellent standing in business circles in whatever community his activities were centered, and he was a citizen of public spirit. He was a Republican, a member of the German Lutheran church, and belonged to the German Arbeiter, the Masons, the Elks and the Association of Commerce. He was married, Oct. 10,

Hosted by Google

1884, to Libby, daughter of Frederick and Catherine Greiner, of Ottawa county, Michigan, and of this union was born a daughter, Gertrude Ann, who is the wife of Charles M. Luce.

Moses P. Merren.—Most intimately associated with the growth and development of any community are its business interests. They mold the lives of the people, give direction to their efforts, and crystallize the present and future possibilities of the locality into concrete form. The leading business men of a locality are its greatest benefactors, silently controlling the forces that bring progress and prosperity, and the measure of the credit that is due them is not fully appreciated. When the development of the extreme northern part of Kent county, and particularly of Sand Lake, is under discussion, a name that is always mentioned is that of Moses P. Merren, who as a leading business man has made his influence felt for many years, and always for the good of the community. Mr. Merren was born, Jan. 24, 1870, on a farm in Kent county, where his father, John Merren, has for many years been one of the leading agriculturists. A man of industry and business ability, he worked his way to independence and a substantial position in the community, solely through his own efforts, and left his posterity the heritage of a spotless name. Moses P. Merren grew up on the home farm, assisting his father during the summer months and attending to his studies in the district schools during the winter terms. When he had completed his educational training he returned to the home farm for a short time, but the life of the agriculturist did not appeal to him and he soon turned his attention to mercantile matters, establishing himself in business as the proprietor of a general store, in 1902. In the management of this enterprise Mr. Merren has displayed splendid ability, and the work which he has put into it has resulted in his building up a trade that extends all over this part of the county. He keeps a close watch upon the needs and desires of the community, and purchases, arranges and prices his stock accordingly, and in this way holds his old customers and constantly attracts new ones. His reputation for integrity and fair dealing, built up by years of straightforward transactions, has assisted in gaining him patronage and is something appreciated also by his business associates. Mr. Merren is pre-eminently a business man, but has found time from the duties of his private interests to contribute to the general welfare. He has been village trustee of Sand Lake for several terms and has also served as a member of the village council, and in both capacities has rendered good and satisfactory service. His political support has always been given unswervingly to the Democratic party and its candidates. Mr. Merren was married at Sand Lake to Grace, daughter of Alfred Giddings, one of the leading merchants of Sand Lake for years and a member of one of the old and honored families of this part of Kent county, the name being well known both in agricultural and mercantile circles, as well as in connection with educational advancement and public life. Mr. and Mrs. Merren are the parents of two sons, John and Wendle, both of whom are attending the graded school at Sand Lake.

Rev. Charles W. Merriam.—One of the large and influential congregations of Grand Rapids is that which has its public worship at the Park Congregational church, long one of the city's beautiful

Hosted by Google

church edifices. Since December, 1915, the pastor of this church has been Rev. Charles W. Merriam, an earnest, pious and zealous minister, and one who has won and held the respect and esteem of all creeds and denominations. Reverend Merriam was born at Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 5, 1876, and two years later was taken by his parents to Springfield, Mass., where he secured his early education in the public schools. As a lad he was studious and industrious in gaining his learning, and was president of his class three years, but was not what is known as a "grind," for he always found time for exercise and wholesome recreation, being a member of the football team four years and captain the last year, a member of the track team in his third year, and a member of the banjo club the last three years. Entering Amherst College in the fall of 1894, he graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Science, following which he went to Hartford, Conn., and became a student at the theological school of that city. In 1899 he entered Yale Divinity School, in which he was duly graduated, and soon thereafter became pastor of the Second Congregational church at Cohasset, Mass., being ordained and installed in June, 1901. Doctor Merriam remained in that charge two years, and in 1903 went to Greenfield, Mass., where he remained until being called to the Park Congregational church, at Grand Rapids, in December, 1915. Here he has been successful in building up a large congregation and in making numerous enduring friendships. He has been a hard and untiring worker in the faith of his Master and has won the confidence and co-operation of numerous influential people, so that his work has been prolific in results. Doctor Merriam was married, Sept. 5, 1900, to Julia B. Sturtevant, of Springfield, Mass., a graduate of the Springfield high school and Smith College, from which she holds the degree of Bachelor of Arts, class of 1897. She is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. To Rev. and Mrs. Merriam have been born three children: Warren Sturtevant, Charles Walcott, Jr., and Julia Elizabeth.

Benjamin P. Merrick.—Few of the lawyers at the Grand Rapids bar are generally acknowledged to have a more ready and sound judgment in broad and intricate matters of civil jurisprudence than has Benjamin P. Merrick, who is a member of the firm of Travis, Merrick & Warner, and has been identified with this concern and its predecessor, Bundy & Travis, since his arrival in the city fifteen years ago. Mr. Merrick was born at Holyoke, Mass., March 19, 1877, son of Timothy and Sarah Brown (Congdon) Merrick. His father, one of the most prominent business men of his day in New England, built up the great thread manufacturing business which bears his name. After attending the public schools of Holyoke, Benjamin P. Merrick took a course in the Boston Latin School and then entered Harvard University, where he was graduated in 1899 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and in 1903 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He was almost immediately admitted to the bar of Massachusetts, but did not practice there, for in October, 1903, he came to Grand Rapids and began practice in the office of Bundy & Travis, already well known lawyers here. He was admitted as a member of the firm, May 1, 1904, and has been connected therewith ever since. He is chairman of the Red Cross Civilian Relief committtee, president of the Social Welfare Association, president of the Federation of Social Agencies,

Hosted by Google

and in 1916 he served as chairman of the Michigan state commission to investigate public outdoor relief, which was an appointment under Governor Ferris.

Joseph W. Mishler.—One of the representatives of the agricultural industry of Kent county who is now living in retirement after a long and successful career is Joseph W. Mishler, still the owner of a fine farm located on section 13, Bowne township. Prior to coming to this community, in 1886, he had secured much experience in the states of Indiana and Pennsylvania, and was able at once to enter actively into the affairs of the locality in which his new home was made, and to win success in the face of stern competition. He has proved a valuable asset to this township, both in an agricultural way and from the standpoint of citizenship. Mr. Mishler was born in Pennsylvania, July 2, 1851, son of William and Gertrude (Garber) Mishler. His father was born and reared in Pennsylvania, was engaged in farming there, and married and had three children before moving to Elkhart county, Indiana, where he resided several years. Next he removed to White Cloud, Newaygo county, Michigan, where his death occurred. Throughout his career he was engaged in the pursuits of the soil, and in all his transactions was known as an honorable man of business. He and Mrs. Mishler were the parents of children as follows: Joseph W.; Catherine, widow of Josiah Weaver, of Goshen, Ind.; John, who lives at White Cloud, Mich.; Polly, widow of Jacob Miller, of Idaho; Jacob, whose home is at Middlebury, Ind.; Henry, of Elkhart, that state; and Barbara, wife of Julian Miller. Joseph W. Mishler was educated in the public schools of Elkhart county, Indiana, to which locality he had been taken as a child, and worked on his father's farm until he reached his majority. At that time he went back to Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in farming for a period of thirteen years, and in 1886 came to Kent county and settled on 160 acres of land located in Bowne township. Later, he sold one-half of this tract, but subsequently added to his holdings by a purchase of forty acres, and now is the owner of 120 acres. During the active period of his career Mr. Mishler followed general farming with much success, and through an intelligent treatment of the soil and hard, industrious and well-directed work was able to make his labors pay him commensurately. As a result, he accumulated a handsome competency, a fair share of which he invested in improvements on his farm buildings and equipment, and this is one of the best improved properties in the township. Mr. Mishler is a Republican, and while he has not been a seeker for public preferment, or particularly interested in politics, has shown himself a good citizen, willing to bear his share of the labors and responsibilities of civic improvement. With his family he belongs to the Mennonite church. He was married, March 5, 1876, to Lena, daughter of Joseph and Lucinda (Weaver) Blough, who passed their entire lives in Pennsylvania. Ten children were born of this union: Simon, who follows farming in Bowne township; Polly, wife of A. T. Eash, of that township; Catherine, who died as the wife of Addison Erb; Lucy, wife of Simon Graybill, of Freeport, Ill.; William, of Bowne township; John, whose home is at Freeport, Mich.; Emma, wife of Warren Roush, of Bowne township; Ervin, a farmer in Barry county; Ella, married Charles Lindsey, of Lansing, Mich., and died July 7, 1917; and Edna, the wife of Merle Hostetler, of Bowne township.

Hosted by Google

Orlin D. Moore.—Modern farming methods have an exponent in Solon township in the person of Orlin D. Moore, who has passed his entire life in this section of Kent county and is thoroughly familiar with conditions here. Mr. Moore has always been an agriculturist and has worked his own way to the ownership of a good property and a high standing among his fellow-citizens. He was born at Oakfield, Mich., April 13, 1874, son of David S. Moore. The latter was born in Rochester county, New York, May 5, 1848, and was variously engaged in his native state, at different times being a farmer, a hotel keeper and a grocer. While he made a success of his various ventures, he decided to get into a country where his activities would not be confined, and accordingly during the latter '60s made his way westward until he reached Oakfield, Mich. This locality made a favorable impression upon him and he secured a tract of government land, upon which he immediately began operations. It was necessary for him to clear a space in order to build his first home, and then followed years of hard labor in cutting down the timber and preparing the soil for crops. Eventually this was accomplished, and Mr. Moore lived to see his broad acres covered with crops and his farm one of the model ones as to equipment in the locality. His death occurred in 1913, at which time his community lost a good citizen and one who was held in universal respect. Mr. Moore married Esther Guiger, daughter of Herman and Ann Guiger, of Oakfield, and of this union were born the following children: Nellie, wife of Mike Swan, of Grand Rapids; Orlin D., of this notice; Josephine, wife of Eugene Morris, of Courtland township, this county, engaged in farming; Anna, who married William Day, a druggist of Caledonia, Mich.; and Margaret, who married Guy Morris, a farmer of Courtland and Nelson townships. Orlin D. Moore was educated in the district schools of Oakfield, after leaving which he began assisting his father on the home farm. He remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-seven years of age, at which time he was married and began farming on his own account. His industry and good management have been rewarded by the attainment of a substantial and worthwhile success, and his possession of a well-cultivated and well improved farm makes him one of the well-to-do men of his locality. Mr. Moore married Miss Bertha Smith, daughter of Joseph E. and Martha (Redman) Smith. Mr. Smith was formerly for many years engaged in farming in Courtland township and still owns a valuable property there, but is at present employed by the Michigan Central railroad. He and Mrs. Smith are the parents of six children: Bertha, who is Mrs. Moore; Sidney, an inspector in the shops of the Michigan Central railroad; Harold, deceased; Hazel, who married Clyde Hostram, a farmer of Oakfield; Harley, who is attending the Cedar Springs high school; and Gleason, a student in the graded schools. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have had two children, of whom one survives—Neville, a student in the graded schools. Mr. Moore has not sought public office, but takes a keen and helpful interest in all that pertains to progressive community life. He is a member of the local grange and in politics is a Republican.

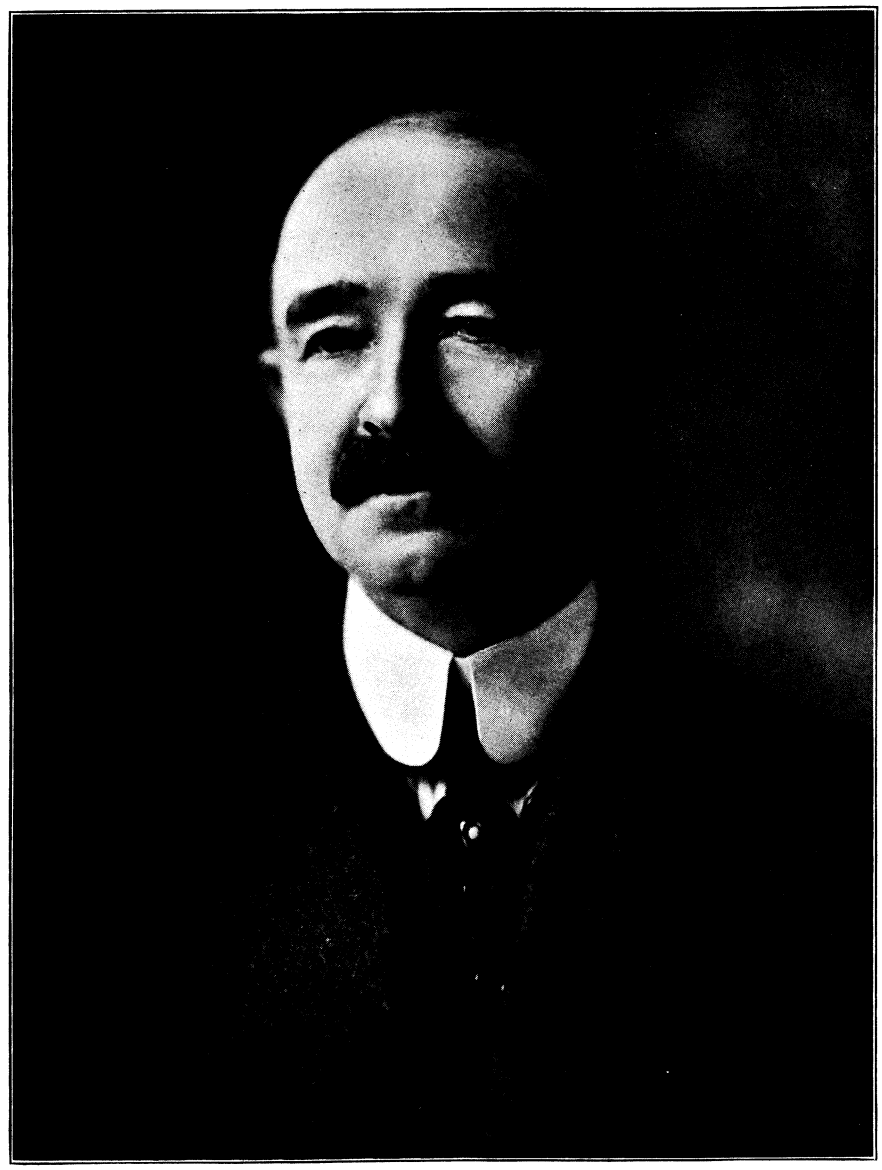
John E. More.—As a strong and active member of the Grand Rapids bar during the greater portion of the last forty-five years, John E. More wields an influence that only men of unusual strength

Hosted by Google

of character and power can exercise in a community of 150,000 people. During the period of his practice here he has been identified with several strong law combinations, but for the last nineteen years has practiced alone and has, individually, been connected with some of the most important litigation that has come before the courts. Like numerous other of Grand Rapids' successful professional men, he is a native of New York, having been born at Roxbury, Delaware county, Aug. 5, 1848, a son of John B. and Louisa (Kelly) More. When he was seven years of age, Mr. More was brought by his parents to Illinois, the family locating in Polo. John E. More first attended the public schools of that place, following which he went to Mount Morris Seminary, there preparing for entrance in Cornell University, New York. He took a literary course in the latter institution and graduated in 1871, in the fall of which year he came to Grand Rapids and began his law studies in the office of Champlin & Butterfield. He was admitted to the Michigan bar in 1873. In 1875 he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was graduated in 1876. On his return to the city, he became identified with the firm of Champlin, Butterfield & Fitzgerald, and in the following year, when this firm dissolved, formed a partnership with Mr. Champlin. The association of Champlin & More continued in existence until Jan. 1, 1884, when Mr. Champlin took his seat on the Supreme Bench of the state. After a period of practicing alone, Mr. More formed a partnership with Charles M. Wilson, who had been a clerk in the office for two years. This continued until 1899, when the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. More has since practiced alone, his present offices being located in the Michigan Trust building. He belongs to the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar Association, and among his professional brethren is held in high esteem and respect. As a lawyer he has ever been a master of details and of fundamental principles, incisive and logical in his arguments, effective in his delivery and straightforward in his methods and manner. Those who know Mr. More need not be told that he is a broad-minded citizen of sterling worth, steadfastly interested in all public measures which promise to be of practical good, and those who are not acquainted with him may have the full assurance of his legion of friends to that effect. For several years he served in the capacity of alderman of the Third ward of Grand Rapids, a capacity in which he rendered excellent service to his city and his constituents; and in 1887 was appointed a member of the Police and Fire Commission, on which he served for a term of five years, being known as one of the active members of that body who made a study of conditions and put himself whole-heartedly in the work of bettering them. Later he was appointed and served with credit as a member of the board of assessors of the city. Mr. More is a Mason, belonging to Valley City Lodge No. 86, F. & A. M., and has other connections of a social, business and professional nature. With his family, he belongs to Saint Mark's Episcopal church. Mr. More was married, June 1, 1881, to Miss Elizabeth, daughter of Samuel H. Stevens, of Delaware county, New York. She died, Aug. 31, 1896, having been the mother of three children, as follows: John C., who is a resident of Los Angeles, Cal.; Stoddard S., of New York City; and Edward E., who lives with his father.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



S. A. Norman.

Hosted by Google

Samuel A. Morman.—Trained faculties and an enlightened understanding gained through long association with a certain line of endeavor, in these modern days, contribute materially not only to individual success, but toward the development and growth of gigantic enterprises. Of the men who have long been identified with the handling of building material, one who has administered carefully and well the affairs of concerns whose operations have affected many, and whose name is synonymous with dignified capability and sound integrity, is Samuel A. Morman, of S. A. Morman & Company, and an officer and director in numerous other business concerns of Grand Rapids. Mr. Morman was born in Kent county, Michigan, in 1858, son of William and Elizabeth (Jeffords) Morman. His father was born at Minehead, on Bridgewater Bay, County Somerset, England, May 9, 1815, and was a lad when brought to the United States, his first settlement being in Detroit. At the age of twenty-one years he left home, in company with Anthony Bowden, and walked the Indian trails to Grand Rapids, taking up a farm just north of the city, and on this 160-acre property commenced farming. Subsequently he recognized the profit to be gained from lime-burning, and accordingly built a lime-kiln and commenced the manufacture of that article, which was almost universally used in building in this part of the country during the early days. This business, started in a small and inconspicuous manner, gradually grew and developed, and in 1874, when Mr. Morman was joined by his son, the enterprise was extended to handle other kinds of building material, including cement, etc. In 1880 the business became William Morman & Son, the latter then having reached his majority, and six years later the elder man retired from active affairs and sold his interest to his son. William Morman continued to take an interest in the business which he had founded, however, right up to the time of his death, in 1905, when he had reached the notable age of ninety years. He was a man of sturdy and sterling honesty, one who could always pick out sincere friends in any gathering of big business men, and whose citizenship was, like his life, beyond shadow of reproach. He was a Democrat in his political views, but his was not a nature to seek the doubtful honors of political position. Mr. Morman was first married to Miss Elizabeth Jeffords, of Grand Rapids, and they became the parents of the following children: Noble, deceased; Minerva E., widow of A. J. Elliott, of Grand Rapids; Mortimer, who met a soldier's death in the Civil war, while serving as a member of the Tenth Michigan cavalry; Martha C., the wife of Basil Gognon, of Grand Rapids; Samuel A.; and Eva L., wife of Charles E. Meech, of this city. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Morman married Mrs. Mary Jane Potter, of Grand Rapids, and they had one daughter, Jennie E., now the wife of Edward Block, of this city. Samuel A. Morman's education was limited to the advantages presented by the public schools of Grand Rapids, which he attended only until he was sixteen years of age. At that time he began his business training under the wise directorship of his father, and when he was twenty-one years old, as before noted, was admitted to the firm of William Morman & Son. Six years later he became sole owner of the business by buying his father's interests, and as the city grew and developed so did the affairs of S. A. Morman & Company, which firm took up the handling

Hosted by Google

of coal. On Jan. 1, 1918, Mr. Morman admitted to partnership M. P. Loumerse and William B. Steele, and the company is now handling all kinds of building material except lumber, including metal lath, sewer pipe, lime, cement, fire brick and all kinds of fuel. In addition, Mr. Morman is vice-president of the Wilmarth-Morman Company, manufacturers of grinding machines; vice-president of the American Boxboard Company, president of the Manufacturers' Realty Company, treasurer of the Swiss-American Knitting Mills, and a director of the Grand Rapids National City Bank and of the Wilmarth Show Case Company. He is a member of the Association of Commerce, of which he was formerly vice-president and treasurer on different occasions. Politically he votes the Republican ticket. With his family he attends the Park Congregational church and contributes liberally to its movements and enterprises, and his social connections include membership in the Peninsular, O-wash-ta-nong, Kent Country and Grand Rapids Curling clubs. Mr. Morman was married, May 18, 1886, to Miss Ada B. Wilmarth, daughter of Oscar B. Wilmarth, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born two children: Helen A., wife of Horace Philip Dix, of Grand Rapids, and the mother of a son—Samuel M.; and Florena A., wife of William B. Steele, of Grand Rapids.

Luther V. Moulton.—The senior member of the law firm of Moulton & Liverance, Luther V. Moulton has been engaged in practice at Grand Rapids since 1890. Prior to taking up law as a profession, his activities had carried him into numerous other fields of experience. A soldier of the Union, master of a sailing vessel on the Great Lakes, photographer and member of the state legislature, these were some of the vocations which filled his busy early life. It was not until he was a man mature in years that he adopted the law, but this did not seem to keep him from almost immediately gaining high standing therein; on the contrary, it is probable that his former experiences, giving him an insight into life and human nature, assisted him in solving the problems and perplexities of one of the most difficult of the learned professions. At any rate, Mr. Moulton is today accounted one of the most able, as he is one of the oldest, members of the Grand Rapids legal profession. Luther V. Moulton was born on a farm in Howard township, Cass county, Michigan, Sept. 27, 1843, a son of Bridgeman C. and Abigail J. (Goodenough) Moulton. His father, a native of Massachusetts, was superintendent of a factory in New England until he cast his fortunes among the hardy pioneers of Cass county, settling on a farm in Howard township, where he rounded out an industrious life in the pursuits of agriculture. Luther V. Moulton spent his boyhood much the same as other farmers' sons of his day and locality, giving his services to the homestead during the long summer season and securing his education in the primitive rural schools of the community. When the Civil war came on, he, with other youths of his township, enlisted in the Union army, becoming a member of the Twelfth Michigan infantry. The rigors and hardships of army life soon broke down Mr. Moulton's health and he was compelled to leave his command, but during the remainder of the war served faithfully as a member of the Michigan Home Guard. At the close of the war he sought new adventure as a sailor on the Great Lakes, where he soon rose to be master of a schooner and

Hosted by Google

continued to follow a seafaring life for some years. His experience next was in the field of photography, and after several years at Muskegon and Beaver Dam, Wis., came to Grand Rapids, in 1875, and became proprietor of a studio. While thus engaged, he also took an active interest in public affairs, and, coming favorably before the people, was elected to the Michigan legislature, on the Greenback ticket, in 1879. It was while he was a member of this body that Mr. Moulton decided to enter the law as a profession. He began the study of his subject in 1882, in the office of Dennis L. Rogers, of Grand Rapids, but as it was necessary that he make his living during this time he was not able to give his entire time to his studies, and it was not until 1890 that he was ready to take the examinations for the bar. Duly admitted, he began practice, specializing in the field of patent law, and for nearly a quarter of a century remained alone, building up a large and profitable clientage and steadily advancing himself to a high place in the ranks of his calling. In 1914 Mr. Moulton formed a partnership with Frank E. Liverance, and the firm of Moulton & Liverance, with offices in the Houseman building, is considered one of the strong combinations of the city. Mr. Moulton in politics votes independent of either of the old parties. He is a Mason, having been "raised" in Lovell Moore lodge at Muskegon more than forty years ago, and belongs to the various organizations of his calling. Mr. Moulton was married, Aug. 7, 1866, to Sarah A., daughter of Sullivan Armstrong, of Ashland, Newaygo county, Michigan, and they have had three children, namely: Emma, who died at the age of seven months; May, who is also deceased; and Lois, who is the widow of Palmer A. Jones, of Grand Rapids.

John Mowat.—In the death of John Mowat, which occurred May 17, 1917, Grand Rapids lost one of its oldest furniture men in point of service. For more than thirty-five years he had been associated with the Grand Rapids Chair Company, one of the city's oldest and largest industries, of which he was vice-president and superintendent at the time of his demise, and in numerous other ways was identified with prominent business organizations and with the varied life of the community. He had rounded out an honorable and useful career of seventy-six years and left behind him a splendid record for personal achievement without outside aid, for business success won in straightforward manner, and for probity and integrity in the various activities in which he had engaged. Mr. Mowat was born at Wick, County Caithness, Scotland, July 10, 1840, a son of George and Ann (McKaye) Mowat. He was still an infant when brought to America, in 1841, his parents settling at Toronto, Canada, where he received his education in the public schools. When still a lad he was apprenticed to a firm of wood workers, Jakes & Hayes, of Toronto, where he learned the trade of wood carver, and not long thereafter went to New York, where he followed his vocation. Later he went to Cambridge, Mass., and while he was living in that state the Civil war came on and he enlisted in a Massachusetts volunteer cavalry regiment, with which he served for some time. On receiving his honorable discharge he returned to Cambridge, but in 1864 left for the West, finally locating at Detroit, Mich., where he secured employment in the shops of the Pullman Company, railroad coach manufacturers. In 1867 he first came to Grand Rapids, where he entered the service of the Berkey &

Hosted by Google

Gay Company, but after some years in their employ left for Cincinnati, Ohio, where for two years he worked with the Mitchell Furniture Company. On his return to Grand Rapids he was made superintendent of the Grand Rapids Chair Company, a position which he retained to the time of his death. In 1911 he was elected vice-president of the company. Few men were better known or more highly esteemed in trade circles. He had the confidence of his associates, who relied upon his judgment and acumen in matters of business importance and his counsel was rarely found to be at fault. He had numerous other business connections, and was president of the Grand Rapids Piano Case Company, president of the Mutual Home and Savings Association, and a director of the Grand Rapids National City Bank and of the Imperial Furniture Company. Mr. Mowat was always interested in movements making for business progress and civic betterment, and was one of the active members of the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce. Politically a Republican, he took only a good citizen's and loyal voter's part in political affairs, while his religious connection was with the Fountain Street Baptist church, of which he was a trustee. He belonged to Valley City Lodge and De Molai Commandery of Masonry and was also a Shriner. Mr. Mowat was married, June 23, 1864, to Margaret, daughter of John De Quedville, who was at that time visiting her brother at Boston, Mass. She was born in the city of Quebec, Canada, where she was educated, and for a time resided at Toronto, where she first became acquainted with her future husband. She died, Aug. 26, 1913, leaving three children: Elizabeth A., who resides at the old home; Frederick C., who has succeeded his father as superintendent of the Grand Rapids Chair Company; and Anna E., wife of A. Blake Gibson, of Grand Rapids, and who has one child, Margaret E. Mr. Mowat was again married, April 8, 1915, to Daisy, daughter of the late Henry J. and Eleanor Jane (Ingalls) Wheeler, of Hillsdale, Mich. She survives him and lives in the family home at No. 336 Cherry Street, S. E.

Benjamin J. Mumah.—Since the beginning of civilized government the possession of land has given prestige, and in this country there are still countless numbers pressing forward eagerly toward the setting sun, with the hope of securing land upon which to make the foundations for the building of a home and the gaining of financial independence. Among those who need feel no such desire in Kent county is Benjamin J. Mumah, for he is already the possessor of a handsome and valuable farm, located in the northern part of the county, not far from the village of Sand Lake, at the west end of the village. Mr. Mumah has been one of the developers of this part of the county, as with his own hands he has cleared off the greater part of his property from its original timbered condition, and as a citizen he has also shared in his community's advancement, as he has served in several capacities of official importance. He is a native of Clark county, Ohio, where his father owned a farm, upon which he was born Aug. 29, 1857. Elias Mumah was born in 1832, in Ashland county, Ohio, and, coming of an agricultural family, turned his earliest activities to the vocation of farming. As a young man he moved to Clark county, where he became possessed of a property, and while engaged in the cultivation of this land the Civil war broke

Hosted by Google

out and he left his home and family, dropping the constructive implements of peace to take up the destructive tools of war. For three years he served in the Union army, establishing an excellent record for brave and faithful service, and then returned to his home and again became a farmer. He was industrious and enterprising, won a modest competence, and had the esteem and confidence of the people of his community. Mr. Mumah married Miss Barbara Kaufman, also a native of Ohio, and they became the parents of three children: Amos, Benjamin J. and John, all of whom are engaged in farming. Benjamin J. Mumah was educated in the public schools of his native county, where he was reared, and his first work was in the fields of his father's farm. He was given a good training in the work connected with the vocation of agriculture, which he adopted as his life occupation when entering upon his independent career. When he left the parental roof he came to Kent county, where he secured seventy-two acres of wooded land, and, settling permanently, began its clearing. All of this land, with the exception of five acres, is now under a high state of cultivation and boasts of many modern improvements, up-to-date equipment and substantial, commodious and attractive buildings. The farm as it stands today is a reflection of the enterprise, perseverance and good management of its owner, who has made his own way without outside assistance. Mr. Mumah's reputation in the community is firmly established as that of a man of integrity and a good citizen. He has held several minor offices and for a number of years has been a member of the village council of Sand Lake, near which place his farm is located. Politically, he is a stanch Republican, and fraternally he is affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees, having joined this order a quarter of a century ago. On Feb. 10, 1881, Mr. Mumah married Flora, daughter of Jacob and Sarah (Wagaman) Chenoweth, and of this union have been born three children: Myrtle May, deceased, who had reached the age of seventeen years; Sadie Jane, a resident of Detroit and connected with the Segal department store; and Benjamin F., a farmer of Kent county, who married Hazel Perrin and has two children—Harold and Glenn. Mr. and Mrs. Mumah are members of the M. E. church at Sand Lake.

David Munro.—Progressive methods, clear insight into commercial conditions, a comprehensive and far-reaching appreciation of the needs of the trade, are characteristics that develop a man into a successful factor in the business life of any community and result in the establishment and growth of substantial enterprises which add to the locality's commercial prestige. These are qualities which have been contributing concomitants in the business success of David Munro, who, since 1870, has been identified with the proprietorship and operation of a number of mills, and who has also been connected with agricultural activities for over a score of years. Mr. Munro was born in Canada in 1844, son of James and Effie (Gordon) Munro, natives of Scotland, who migrated to Canada in 1844, a short time before the birth of their son, David. The father was a miller, but died in 1856, while the mother survived until 1887. David is the fifth of a family of eight children, of whom the others were: Daniel, whose death occurred in 1875; Wilhelmina, deceased; Isabelle, wife of W. A. D. Rose, of Benton Harbor, Mich.; Jennie May,

Hosted by Google

deceased; Anna, deceased; Charles, of Canada; and Robert, of Berkeley, Cal. The primary education of David Munro was obtained in the public schools of Canada, and in 1865 he came to Michigan and pursued a commercial course in a business college at Albion. Following this he spent a short time at Galesburg, Mich., and a like time at St. Louis, Mo., and then went to Grand Rapids and later to Lowell, where he was engaged in milling. For three and one-half years, also, he was engaged in mercantile pursuits at Big Rapids, but in May, 1870, came to the vicinity of Edgerton, where he established a shingle and saw-mill and engaged in business on an extensive scale. Later he built his present flour mill, then a shingle and saw-mill, and for a long period was a heavy operator throughout this part of the country, although his trade, heavy as it is, has of recent years been more or less restricted to local circles. He has succeeded excellently in a business way, having shown marked capacity in each of his undertakings, and at the same time he has retained the confidence and esteem of his associates through straightforward dealing and high business ethics. In addition to his mill he is owner of a store building at Edgerton, as well as 122 acres of fine and fertile farming land in Algoma township, and engages to some extent in agricultural pursuits, although more as the superintendent of operations than as an active personal participant. Mr. Munro is a Republican in his political views, and in 1875 was elected justice of the peace, but did not qualify for that office. At various times during his career he has rendered other public service, however, having been a member of the school board on a number of occasions and a member of the county board of supervisors for four years. In 1874 Mr. Munro was married to Miss Minerva Bradley, and to this union were born two children: James O. (deceased), who married Emma Rounds and was the father of two children—Agnes and Winnifred, the latter also deceased; and Grace, wife of Glen Chaffee, of Grand Rapids, Mich., who has three children—Marie, Arabella and Dorothy. Mr. Munro has been a member of the Maccabees since 1885. He donated land for the M. E. church and helped build the structure at Edgerton. For several years he was also in the mercantile business at Edgerton and served as postmaster nine years.

Earl W. Munshaw, junior member of the firm of Maynard, Freeland & Munshaw, is one of the young attorneys of Grand Rapids who, through industry and perseverance, united with professional skill and ability, has attained a high position in his profession and at the same time has gained and retained the respect and esteem of his professional colleagues and the public at large. Mr. Munshaw belongs to one of the families which through long residence and helpful participation in the progress of the community have become widely and favorably known in Kent county. He was born at Grand Rapids, Dec. 7, 1886, a son of David E. and Clara (Vanden Berg) Munshaw, his parents being natives respectively of Canada and the Netherlands. On coming to the United States, in 1870, David E. Munshaw settled in Paris township, Kent county, and there took up the implements and assumed the vocation of the agriculturist, a vocation which he followed with honorable success for some years. Later he took up his residence at Grand Rapids, where he followed various lines of business industry until his retirement several years

Hosted by Google

ago. He is now in comfortable circumstances and is living quietly, he and Mrs. Munshaw enjoying the fruits of the early years of labor. There were three children in the family: Gilbert and Ward, who are both deceased, and Earl W. After attending the graded schools of Grand Rapids, where he had a creditable record for scholarship, Earl W. Munshaw entered the Grand Rapids high school, which he attended and graduated there in 1905, following which he spent two years at the Ann Arbor high school and was graduated there in 1907. Having decided upon a career in the law, he next entered the University of Michigan, and in 1910 was graduated with his degree of Bachelor of Laws, after a splendid college course. Admitted to the bar in the same year, he began his professional experience as assistant prosecuting attorney, under Judge Brown, and was later the incumbent of the same position under Earl F. Phelps for six months. In December, 1912, Mr. Munshaw became associated with Homer H. Freeland, under the style of Freeland & Munshaw, and this continued until Jan. 1, 1917, when Fred A. Maynard was admitted to partnership, the firm at that time becoming, as now, Maynard, Freeland & Munshaw. Mr. Munshaw has been eminently successful in taking care of the share of the business of the firm for which he is responsible, and bears a high reputation for careful preparation, skillful handling and entirely conscientious treatment of every case. He is a member of the Kent County Bar association and of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, and takes an active part in various civic movements which interest all public-spirited citizens. His fraternal connections are with the Masons, including the Scottish Rite and Shrine, Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America camp, in all of which he is deservedly popular. As regards politics, he has given his unswerving support to the Republican party, but has been too engrossed with his law practice to enter into the arena as a candidate for public office. With the members of his family, he attends the Westminster Presbyterian church. Mr. Munshaw was married, Sept. 15, 1908, to Miss Merry Morgan, daughter of William H. and Emma (Wood) Morgan, of Grand Rapids, but formerly of Macon, Mich., and they have had three children: Lynn, born May 3, 1911; Dorothy, born April 22, 1914; and Jean Caroline, who is deceased.

Thomas Murray.—One of the well-cultivated farms of Kent county, which reflects in its general air of prosperity the agricultural ability and good management of its owner, is that belonging to Thomas Murray, a tract of 120 acres lying in section 36, Caledonia township. This property, which has changed hands only once since the time when it was owned by the United States Government, has been accumulated by Mr. Murray solely through the medium of his own efforts, for when he started upon his career he had only ordinary advantages and was not assisted by financial help or family influence. Thomas Murray was born in Canada, Aug. 12, 1858, son of Thomas and Anne (Egan) Murray, natives of Ireland. His father was a youth of nineteen years when he came to America, and after working for others for some years managed to accumulate the means wherewith to buy a farm of his own. This was a property which had as yet been untouched by the lumberman's axe or the farmer's plow, and the elder Murray's first efforts were directed toward clearing away the timber in Victoria county, Canada. After he was married

Hosted by Google

he lived in a small log cabin, where his son Thomas was born, but he was an ambitious and industrious man and in later life acquired a good property. After farming for several years in Canada, he came to the United States and took up eighty acres of land in Caledonia township, where Thomas now resides, and there he cleared a small space, upon which he erected a log cabin which still stands as a memento of the early days of this region. He put his land under cultivation, added to it from time to time, and became one of the substantial men of the community, and rounded out a long and honorable career as an agriculturist, dying Jan. 7, 1917, when he had reached the advanced age of ninety-two years. Mr. Murray was reared in the Catholic church and remained true to his faith throughout his life. Politically he was a Democrat, but his political activities were confined to his casting his vote in behalf of good measures and the candidates of his party. He was the father of seven children: Mary, wife of John Sullivan, of Grand Rapids; Michael, who follows farming in Bowne township, Kent county; Thomas; John, also a farmer in Bowne township; Will, a resident of Grand Rapids, in the employ of the Pere Marquette railroad; and James and Anna, who are deceased. The education of Thomas Murray, the younger, was secured in the primitive log schoolhouse which was to be found in this district during the early days, and his time in his boyhood was divided between his studies, which he prosecuted during the short winter terms, and his work on the home farm, where he assisted his father in the manifold and arduous duties which the early settlers were called upon to perform. Later, he worked by the day at wages, having five "eighty's" to clear, and for a number of years operated a threshing machine for seven seasons, and thus was able to secure enough money to buy his first eighty acres. To this original purchase he has since added forty acres to the west, and the whole property is now in a good state of cultivation, paying Mr. Murray handsome returns for the labor which he expends upon it. Included in the features of this farm is an orchard, the trees for which were carried by his father by hand over many miles of country, and these bore heavily until 1916. Mr. Murray has always been an ardent admirer of good orchards, but he now devotes himself to general farming. Like his father he is a Democrat, although only a voter. He is a member of the Catholic church. The moderation of his life, the practical quality of his efforts and the good will and honesty which have characterized all of his dealings with his fellow-men, have won for him an established place among the agriculturists of Caledonia township. He is unmarried.

James Hervey Neeland, vice-president of the Dean-Hicks Company of Grand Rapids, is a representative business man here and has been identified with large interests in this city and at other points since entering the business world. He was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., May 6, 1868. His parents were John and Elizabeth (Smith) Neeland. John Neeland was born in Scotland and was brought to Canada when seven years old and grew up there and married Elizabeth Smith, a native of Canada. Both are now deceased, but their four children survive: Catherine, widow of O. A. Willyard, of Grand Rapids; Florence E., wife of E. H. Stafford, of Chicago; James Hervey, and Marvin A., a resident of Montclair,

Hosted by Google

Essex county, New Jersey. The father of this family was a merchant in Canada for many years, during which time he resided at St. Mary's, St. Catherines and London. In 1866 he came to Grand Rapids and for a time was associated in business with Julius A. Berkey and later became a traveling salesman. He was a man of upright character and possessed great business capacity. James Hervey Neeland attended the public schools of Grand Rapids, and when the time came for him to decide upon a vocation he determined to learn the art of engraving, a natural taste that amounted to talent in that direction having much to do with his choice. He learned the business under W. Y. Fuller in the Tradesman Company and then went to Pittsburgh, where he worked as an engraver for two years, at that time accepting a position as an engraver with a large firm in Hartford, Conn. From there he went for a time to New York City, then back to Pittsburgh, and in 1900 returned to Grand Rapids. He took charge of the Bain Company engraving plant and later was connected with the Record Engraving Company, and finally accepted the responsible office of vice-president of the Dean-Hicks Company. His experience in the business has been wide and his opportunities for keeping thoroughly abreast with the discoveries that have seemingly brought this fine art to perfection, have been exceptional. Mr. Neeland was married, June 28, 1894, to Miss Minnie I. Davis, daughter of John Davis, of Boston, Mass., and they have two children: Gerald Kent and Herma Josephine, both of whom reside at home. Mr. Neeland and his family belong to the First Methodist Episcopal church at Grand Rapids. Politically he is a Republican. He is an earnest citizen and is a member of the Association of Commerce.

Harley W. Nelson.—One of the most important departments in the government of any large city is that which has to do with the safety of its citizens and the preservation of their property. At Grand Rapids this important work is in the hands of the Department of Public Safety, the secretary of which, Harley W. Nelson, has been the incumbent of his present responsible position for a period of eleven years. During this time he has discharged his duties in a manner that has left no doubt as to his ability and fidelity, so that today he is accounted one of the city's most valued and valuable public officials. Mr. Nelson was born at Muskegon, Mich., March 10, 1861, son of Charles D. and Caroline (Wason) Nelson, both now deceased, who were natives of Vermont. Charles D. Nelson was for many years extensively engaged in lumbering, at various points in Michigan and other states, and after his retirement came to Grand Rapids to make his home with his son, where he died. Harley W. Nelson was reared at Muskegon, where he attended the graded and high schools, and after leaving the latter had some experience in the lumber business, in the clerical end as a bookkeeper for his father, and in the mechanical branch as the operator of a saw-mill. This experience gave him the necessary knowledge for active participation in the business, which he followed at Menominee, Mich., as the secretary of a lumber company. Coming to Grand Rapids, in 1888, he became secretary of the Columbian Transfer Company and remained with this concern for the greater part of twenty years, resigning in 1907 to assume the serious duties of secretary of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners. His service, as has been

Hosted by Google

noted, has been of a fine and high character, and the credit for much of the splendid equipment and personnel, as well as morale, of Grand Rapids' police and fire departments and their excellent systems must be given to him for his energetic and conscientious work. Secretary Nelson is a Republican. He was married, Feb. 20, 1894, to Miss Jessie, daughter of Thomas H. and Mary (Mosley) Barstow, of Grand Rapids.

J. Newton Nind was born at St. Charles, Ill., March 11, 1854, and in the schools of that place he received his rudimentary education. In 1865 the family removed to Winona, Minn., and there J. Newton began his life work in the journalistic field. With three other boys, who invested seven dollars each in a second-hand font of bourgeois type and enough rule to get out a paper, he was instrumental in starting the publication of the North Star, the first number of which appeared Feb. 13, 1869. Mr. Nind's nominal connection with this publication was that of subscription agent, but he set type, carried and sold papers, and went to school when jobs of bill posting did not prevent. It was thus that he began to learn the printer's trade, and the knowledge then acquired served him well during the succeeding years. At the end of six months he became the sole proprietor of the business and continued the publication of the North Star until July, 1871. He then worked in the job room of the Winona Republican for a time, but upon the opening of an academy at Red Wing, Minn., he enrolled as a student and resurrected the North Star as an adjunct to the school, publishing it there during the first school year. He then accepted an offer to help report the session of the Minnesota legislature for the St. Paul Pioneer, and thus his career as a daily newspaper man commenced; and it was continued for a number of years, mainly in connection with St. Paul, Minneapolis and Chicago papers. The lumber interest at that time was a considerable one in the Northwest, and the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, with which Mr. Nind was employed, was assigned to study that industry. He was so successful that the Northwestern Lumberman asked him to become the correspondent of that paper, and he made plans to get into trade journalism. He began to write about furniture in 1889, and in October, 1891, became the accredited editor of the Furniture News, published at Minneapolis. He was thus employed until April, 1893, when he became editor of the St. Paul Trade and also acted as special writer for the Northwestern Lumberman until February, 1894. For several months then he was special trade newspaper correspondent for the Timberman and other trade papers, and also editorial writer on the Minneapolis Tribune. In April, 1894, he became editor of the Rockford Furniture Journal, and in July of the same year he secured complete control of the Furniture News. These two papers were thereafter issued as twin publications, one issued from Rockford and the other from Minneapolis, until January, 1900, when they were merged into one paper and published from Chicago. The Embalmers' Monthly was acquired in May, 1895, and Mr. Nind was the editor of all of these publications. In 1900 Mr. Nind came to Grand Rapids and established the Grand Rapids Furniture Record, which is a leading furniture journal of the country, published monthly, and maintains a high-grade artistic standard. He also became associated with the publication of the Michigan Artisan, which is now

Hosted by Google

published as a daily, during the months of July and January, under the name of the Daily Artisan Record. In addition to these he is editor of the Furniture Manufacturer and Artisan, published monthly, and the American Funeral Director, also published monthly. Mr. Nind is a member of the Park Congregational church, and of the Advertising Council club and the Association of Commerce. On Dec. 12, 1878, Mr. Nind was married to Miss Agnes Williams, of Red Wing, Minn., and of this union have been born three children: Helen, wife of Dudley K. French, of Winnetka, Ill.; J. Newton, Jr., of Grand Rapids, and Marjorie E., a student in the Grand Rapids high school.

Mark Norris.—For thirty-six years a practitioner at the Michigan bar and generally recognized as one of the most deeply read lawyers of Grand Rapids, Mark Norris has placed his name high on the roster of his profession in Kent county. In the selection of their counsel the great financial institutions and business industries of the country employ the utmost caution and careful judgment, the requisites for such identification being substantial legal ability, absolute rectitude of character and a broad experience of the world and men. All of these qualities are found in the personality of Mr. Norris, who, among others, is general counsel of the Blodgett Company, Ltd., and its allied industries. Mr. Norris was born at Ypsilanti, Mich., July 28, 1857, a son of Lyman Decatur and Lucy (Whittelsey) Norris. His paternal grandparents were Mark and Roccena B. Norris, pioneers from New York to Michigan, in 1827, who settled at Ypsilanti and there passed the remainder of their lives, the grandfather dying in 1862 and the grandmother surviving until 1876. Lyman Decatur Norris was born, May 4, 1823, at Covington, Genesee (now Wyoming) county, New York, and was given a good education by his parents, who sent him to the University of Michigan and to Yale, in which latter institution he was graduated in 1845. Two years later he was admitted to the bar and commenced practice at Ypsilanti, subsequently removing to St. Louis, then returning to Ypsilanti, and finally coming to Grand Rapids, where he had an exceptionally brilliant and successful career at the bar and rose to be one of the city's most substantial and highly honored citizens, filling numerous positions with distinction and always holding the entire confidence and respect of his fellow-practitioners and the public in general. He died, Jan. 6, 1894. Mr. Norris was married, Nov. 22, 1854, to Lucy Alsop, daughter of Gen. Chauncey Whittelsey, of Middletown, Conn., and of this union there were born two children: Maria W. and Mark. Mark Norris attended the public schools of Ypsilanti until he reached the age of fourteen years. He attended school at Yonkers Military Institute in 1871-3 and DeVeaux College, Suspension Bridge, N. Y., in 1873-5, where he finished his preparation for the University and received two gold medals for scholarship. Returning to Michigan, he entered the State university, where, in 1879, he was graduated as Ph. B. For fifteen months thereafter he read law in the office of Norris & Uhl, the first named his father and the latter the late Hon. Edwin F. Uhl. In the fall of 1880 he re-entered the University of Michigan, this time as a student of the law department, and in 1882 received his degree of Bachelor of Laws. Mr. Norris began practice in April, 1882, with Norris & Uhl, and in 1885 became a member of the firm. Mr. Uhl leaving the firm, Jan. 1, 1887, it became

Hosted by Google

Norris & Norris, and this style continued until the death of the elder man, in 1894, following which, for about three years, Mark Norris practiced alone. In 1897 was formed the law firm of Crane, Norris & Stevens, which remained unchanged until 1900, when Mr. Stevens withdrew and Walter W. Drew was admitted, the firm thus becoming Crane, Norris & Drew. Mr. Drew retired in 1903 and the firm then became Crane & Norris. Mr. Crane retired from practice and moved to California in February, 1911. Mr. Norris then organized the firm of Norris & McPherson, which finally became, as now, Norris, McPherson, Harrington & Waer. The firm is engaged in a general practice and has offices in the Grand Rapids Savings Bank building. From 1895 to 1899 Mr. Norris was a member of the State Board of Law Examiners. For the past twelve years he has been a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education. He was re-elected for three years in the spring of 1918. While he has been absolutely devoted to the cause of his clients in whatever field he has worked, he has never forgotten the ethics of his profession or stooped to unworthy means to gain an advantage. By close study and through his familiarity with legal lore, he usually fortifies his positions with so many facts and precedents that only the leading practitioners can successfully cope with him. Mr. Norris is a member of the city, county, state and national bar associations, and of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. While in college he joined the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, and his standing in Masonry is high, he being a past master of York Lodge No. 410, a member of the Chapter and Council, past commander of De Molai Commandery No. 5, commander-in-chief of DeWitt Clinton Consistory, and grand commander of the state. His social connections are numerous and he belongs to the Peninsular, O-wash-ta-nong, Kent Country and Boat and Canoe clubs. Mr. Norris' religious connection is with the New Jerusalem church. Mr. Norris was married, Sept. 3, 1885, to Cornella E., daughter of Rev. Larmon W. Abbott, of Ridgefield, Conn. She died, Jan. 26, 1913, the mother of three children: Margaret Abbott, who resides with her father; Abbott Lyman, of Grand Rapids; and Cornella, who is the wife of Howell Gilbert, of this city.

Harmon Olthouse.—In the not so far distant past there was a time when the calling of the agriculturist was but indifferently considered by the thoughtless and by those who had successfully bent their energies toward other vocations in the villages, towns and cities. His arduous labor did not seem in many cases to be sufficiently appreciated, and often because of the lack of proper transportation facilities he could not adequately market his products or hope to secure a fair price for them. However, the time has come when the man who tills the soil is one of the most important factors in our national existence, and more and more is the agriculturist coming into his own. This has led to encouragement and to intense activity among the farming fraternity, particularly among the younger element, and in this direction Gaines township has been no exception. A worthy and capable representative of the younger generation of farmers here, and one who has already attained a large measure of success, is Harmon Olthouse, whose successful general farming and stock-raising operations are being prosecuted on section 11. Mr. Olthouse was born at Grand Haven, Mich., July 27, 1882, son of

Hosted by Google

Haike and Florence (Vanderwood) Olthouse, both now deceased. His parents were natives of Badum, Netherlands, where they were reared, educated and married, and shortly after their union emigrated to the United States. In 1880 they located at Grand Haven, Mich., where they lived for some time, the father being variously employed, but in 1884 removed to Kent county and bought ten acres of green land just south of the city of Grand Rapids. This was cultivated, improved and made attractive, and sold at a large advance, so that the father was able to purchase 200 acres of land in Gaines township, a part of which had already been improved. Here he continued to very successfully follow agricultural pursuits during the remainder of an honorable and active life. He was a Republican in his political inclinations, and in addition to holding school offices was generally active in township affairs and a man of influence to whom his fellow-citizens frequently looked for guidance and leadership. He and Mrs. Olthouse were members of the Christian Reformed church and the parents of the following children: John, a resident of Grand Rapids; Henry, a farmer in Gaines township; Jacob, deceased; Dora, wife of C. K. Blaine, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; William, who lives at Freeport, Mich.; Martin, captain of veterinary corps, now in France; Cornelius, deceased; Anna, wife of John Middlebush, of Gaines township; and Harmon. Harmon Olthouse was educated in the district schools and was reared to the pursuits of agriculture, which have demanded his attention ever since he entered upon his active independent career. He continued to be associated with his father until the elder man's death, at which time he bought 120 acres from his widowed mother and since then has continued to add to his success each year. He now has one of the handsome and attractive farms of the township, lying in section 11, not far from the village of Caledonia, an excellent location and a most convenient one. The improvements on the property are new and substantial, and Mr. Olthouse has erected a modern residence of commodious proportions and a splendid new barn with the latest equipment. He has engaged in general farming and makes somewhat of a specialty of graded Short Horn cattle. Mr. Olthouse is a Republican, and the high esteem in which he is held is shown in the fact that he has been school treasurer for six years and has also held school offices. His public record, like that he has made in private life and as a farmer, is clear of any blemish and is characterized by hard and efficient work for his community in the discharge of his official duties. With Mrs. Olthouse he attends the United Brethren church and is liberal in his contributions to its movements. Mr. Olthouse was united in marriage, June 24, 1909, with Miss Alta E. Geib, daughter of Valentine Geib, a well known farmer of Gaines township, and of this union have been born a son and a daughter: Paul Nicholas, who died in infancy, and Elizabeth Louise.

H. Fred Oltman.—While it is assuredly true that a large city such as Grand Rapids offers many and widely diversified opportunities for advancement along every line of personal endeavor, yet it is just as true that only a percentage attain distinction and a large number fail of even attaining a competency. It requires something more than mere opportunity to raise a man from the common level of every-day accomplishments, for unless he has within him the inherent ability, all the chances and fortuitous advantages in the world cannot

Hosted by Google

help him. In the case of H. Fred Oltman, opportunity played its part, but when it came he was ready for it, having been trained to recognize it as such and to make the most of it when it was once within his grasp. In the position of manager of the Leonard Street Branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank he is displaying the kind of ability that is necessary for success in a city that does not lack able men ready to compete in any field. Mr. Oltman is a native son of Grand Rapids, born June 20, 1883, his parents being William and Phiene (Dykhouse) Oltman. They were born in Groningen, Netherlands, from which city the father came to the United States about the year 1867, locating at Grand Rapids, where he received his education. As a young man he embarked in the shoe business, a line of endeavor in which he is widely and favorably known and in which he has been engaged for more than a quarter of a century, a portion of the time with the firm of Ritzema-Oltman Shoe Company. For some years past he has been prominent in civic affairs of his adopted city and at this time is a member of the City Commission. He is a Republican and a member of the Christian Reformed church. Six children were born to William Oltman and his wife: H. Fred; Carrie, wife of John B. Stuit, of Grand Rapids; Jean, wife of Jay Verschore, also of this city; Helen, who is unmarried and resides with her parents; Winnifred, wife of Harry S. Richardson, of Detroit; and George, first gunner of Battery B, Eighth Coast Artillery. H. Fred Oltman was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and at Calvin College, and after a short business experience went to Holland, Mich., where he established a branch shoe business for his father. This he conducted for one and one-half years, when he returned to Grand Rapids and was associated with the elder man for two years. In February, 1913, he was made manager of the Leonard Street Branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank and has continued to hold this position to the present time. He is acknowledged to be a man of sound business and financial judgment, and in his management of the affairs of the branch has extended the scope and volume of business done by the institution which he represents. Politically he gives his support to the candidates of the Republican party and his religious connection is with the Christian Reformed church. Mr. Oltman was one of the organizers of the Lotus club and is now a member of the board of directors of that organization. He has interested himself in various matters of importance to the city and is vice-president of the Northwestern Improvement Association and an active member of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. Mr. Oltman was married, Dec. 3, 1908, to Miss Minna Van Bree, daughter of Arie and Henrietta (Spanger) Van Bree, of Grand Rapids.

John Oosta was born in the Netherlands, Aug. 2, 1845, son of Dick and Catherine (Bolsta) Oosta. These parents came to Grand Rapids, in 1880, and both died here. They were the parents of four children: Clara, Bertha and Nellie, all of whom reside in Grand Rapids, and John, who is the subject of this review. As a young man in the land of his birth, John Oosta learned the cabinet-making trade, and after coming to America worked at that occupation in Grand Rapids until 1898, when he purchased 200 acres of land where he now resides, in Caledonia township. There he has built a house and barn and made practically all of the improvements on the place.

Hosted by Google

He has a fine home and carries on a general farming industry. Mr. Oosta has lived retired for the past six years and his son, August, has assumed the active management of the farm. With his family he is a member of the Christian Reformed church. Mr. Oosta was married to Garty Degager, who was born in Holland, July 3, 1849. Her parents were agricultural people and never came to America. Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Oosta were born ten children: Dick and Cornelius, of Caledonia township; Joseph and Andrew, of Grand Rapids; Catherine, wife of Jacob Baker, of Grand Rapids; Bertha, wife of William Vanderhoff; Clara, wife of Owen Madden, of Grand Rapids; August, who manages the home farm; and Henry and John, both at home.

William Oswald.—During a long period of years the late William Oswald was identified with the business interests of Grand Rapids and had the confidence of his business associates and the friendship of a wide circle of acquaintances. In matters of commercial importance he showed judgment and foresight, winning success and standing, and in various ways took part in the busy life of the city, to which he had come as a farmer lad of nineteen years. Mr. Oswald was born on a farm near Comstock, Ontario, Canada, son of Philip and Katherine (Knauch) Oswald, natives of Canada, where they passed their lives in agricultural pursuits and both died. His education was secured in the country schools of his native locality, and until he was nineteen years of age he assisted his father in the work of the home place. At that time he left the parental roof and came to Grand Rapids, where he secured employment with a Dr. De Camp, but soon learned the trade of blacksmith, to which he devoted his attention for several years. Having thus acquired some small capital, earned by industry and retained by economy and careful management, he invested it in a retail liquor business. He was popular, honest and a good business man, and built up a good trade, continuing to be engaged in this line until his retirement, which occurred some six or seven years prior to his death, March 12, 1899. Mr. Oswald was also the owner of a good farm in Kent county, where he raised standard crops. He was a great lover of a good horse and for some time devoted a large part of his attention to the breeding of racing animals, many of which carried his colors to victory in local meets and at annual county and state fairs. Politically a Democrat, he did not seek office, but wielded somewhat of an influence in local matters. Fraternally, he belonged to the Arbeiter Verein and the Knights of the Maccabees, in both of which he was popular, and his religious connection was with the German Lutheran church. Mr. Oswald was married, Feb. 3, 1869, to Miss Emma, daughter of Carl Bettes. Mr. Bettes, who was a bookkeeper by occupation, died in his native country of Bohemia, as did his wife, whereupon their daughter Emma, who had been born there April 13, 1847, and educated in the parochial schools, came to the United States to live with her brother, Charles, she being then nineteen years of age. She still survives and resides at No. 629 Cherry street, S. E., in which neighborhood she and the members of her family are well known and highly respected. Mr. and Mrs. Oswald became the parents of the following children: Mary, Henry, William and Catherine, all of whom are deceased; Emma and Charles J., who reside with their mother; Katie, deceased; Frank P.,

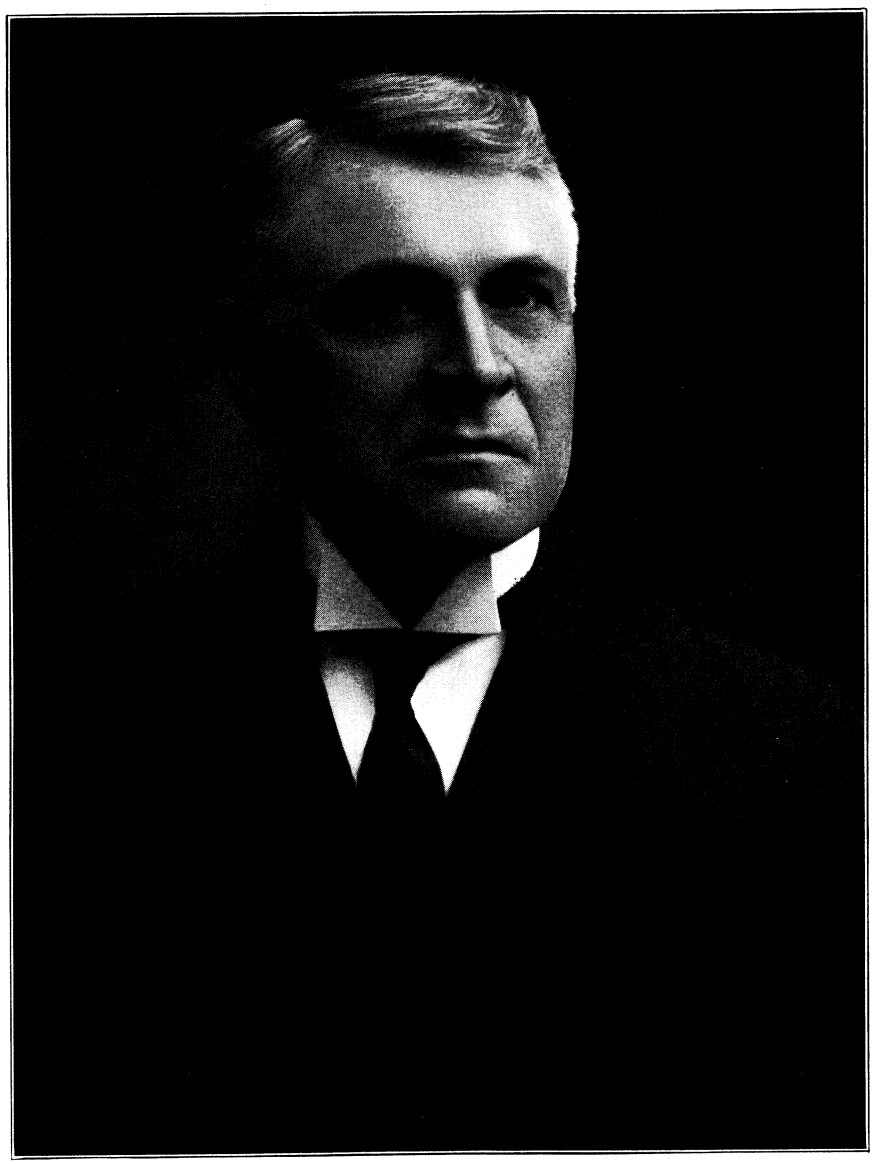
Hosted by Google

of Grand Rapids, who is married and has one son—William P.; George E., also of Grand Rapids, who is married and has a daughter—Marion Agnes; Clara E., who is the wife of Glenn McCaul, of Seattle, Wash., and has a daughter—Barbara Jane; and Edwin F., who resides with his mother.

Edward F. Otte.—As old domestic methods, one by one, are superseded by modern ways that revolutionize in large degree the arduous tasks that formerly confronted every housekeeper, science in the household has become a familiar demand. Thus the modern laundry has become recognized as one of the most helpful of institutions and, conducted as the present excellent laws require, along sanitary lines, gives relief from hard household labor, while its results are more generally satisfactory than are possible of attainment in the ordinary home. Among the modern establishments of this kind, one which has been recognized as a necessary commercial adjunct for thirty-seven years, during which its straightforward and honorable policy has served to build its business up to large proportions, is the American Laundry, at Grand Rapids, founded here in 1881 by Adrian Otte and still conducted by members of the same family. Adrian Otte was a native of the Netherlands who emigrated to the United States in young manhood and, solely by his own initiative, resource and recognition of opportunity, made himself a place among the successful business men of Grand Rapids. In 1881, in a small way, he commenced the American Laundry, the first place of business being situated in the rear of the Livingston Hotel. Five years later he was joined in business by his brother and the partners moved their establishment to the Herald building, where they continued for many years. As the business expanded and attracted more and more trade, numerous additions were found necessary to be made to its equipment, and finally the quarters became altogether too inadequate and the present large building was erected on South Division avenue. This structure is three stories in height, 193x132 feet, and beside the general laundry department includes a dry cleaning plant, 85x122 feet, and a rug cleaning plant, 65x90 feet, the business of the concern covering all three of these departments. The business is incorporated at $200,000 and the present officials are: Adrian Otte, president; E. F. Otte, vice-president; and John P. Otte, secretary and treasurer. There are 260 people employed in the business and twelve automobiles and eighteen wagons are found necessary in the collection and delivery of the laundry. The great growth and development of this concern from small beginnings is illustrative of true American grit and enterprise and is representative of the manner in which Grand Rapids has attained much of its prestige as a live business locality. Edward F. Otte, vice-president of the American Laundry, was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., April 10, 1887, and is a son of Adrian Otte. He was educated in the public schools of the city and after a course at McLachlan's Business College entered the laundry in a minor capacity to learn the business, and has known no other connection. He worked his way through the various positions, thoroughly familiarizing himself with every branch of the business, and in 1912 was elected vice-president, which office he now holds. Mr. Otte is a capable business man of the younger generation, a product of these energetic commercial times and a man of much resource and most

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



John Otter

Hosted by Google

progressive ideas. He is a Republican in his political views, although politics plays but a small part in his life; works actively as a member of the Association of Commerce, and belongs to the O-wash-ta-nong club, the T. P. A., and the Masonic Lodge, Grotto and Consistory, and the Shrine. He is also a director of the Exchange club. Mr. Otte was married, May 26, 1915, to Florence E., daughter of Mrs. Marietta Church, of Grand Rapids, and they have one daughter, Barbara Louise.

John Otte.—In the death of John Otte, which occurred Aug. 12, 1911, Grand Rapids lost a citizen who had been a builder of one of the city's prominent business enterprises and a man whose career had been illustrative of the rewards in fortune and character to be attained through a life of industry and integrity. When he came to this country, in his youth, he had no knowledge of the language or customs of his new home, nor had he influence or capital to help him in his struggle to success. He was forced to depend absolutely upon his own abilities, and that these proved sufficient is shown in the fact that although seven years have passed since his death, he is still remembered as an honorable and capable man of business and a citizen who did much to advance the interests of his adopted community. John Otte was born Aug. 31, 1855, at Ellewoutsdijk, Netherlands, a son of Peter Otte. He was a lad of thirteen years when he arrived in Grand Rapids, where, while attending the public schools, he learned to speak English, and with this preparation sought and secured employment, working in various stores as salesman and bookkeeper for many years. What he lacked at first in knowledge of business methods he made up in energy and fidelity, and as time passed he became more and more valuable to the concerns by which he was employed. In 1886, after being with Nelson Brothers, dealers in wallpaper and books, for several years, Mr. Otte joined his brother, Adrian Otte, who had founded the American Laundry some five years before. The business was started in the Herald building, where under the vigorous and well-directed management of the brothers it thrived and prospered and grew to large proportions, eventually securing much of the best patronage of the city. Mr. Otte continued to be connected with this business until his death, when still in the prime of life. The shock was a severe one, not only to his family, to whom the loss was irreparable, but also among the large circle of his business associates, who, knowing him, had become his warm friends. Shrewd and careful in the smallest details of his own affairs, he bore and had fairly won the reputation of straightforward and honorable dealing with others. Mr. Otte had a number of other business interests and was a director in the People's Savings Bank. He was a member of the Knickerbocker Society, belonged to the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, and was a Republican in political sentiment. Mr. Otte was married, Sept. 18, 1878, to Mary A., daughter of John and Anna (Monroe) Harris, of Grand Rapids, natives of Philadelphia, Pa. They became the parents of one child, Grace Marie, born at Grand Rapids, Jan. 8, 1896, and who attended the Grand Rapids graded and high schools and is a graduate of the Travis School of Esthetics and Dancing, a most accomplished young lady who makes her home with her mother at the attractive family residence, No. 630 Madison avenue, S. E., Grand Rapids.

Hosted by Google

George F. Owen.—During the many years that he was engaged as a traveling salesman, there were few men who were better or more favorably known in business circles throughout Michigan, Ohio and Indiana than the late George F. Owen. His was a career which contained no startlingly distinctive achievements, yet from every point of view his life was a successful one, and his integrity of character, soundness of citizenship, probity of private life and fidelity to the engagements and responsibilities of existence made his long stay among his fellow-beings an eminent and honorable one. Particularly was he well known in his home city of Grand Rapids, not alone in business circles, but in civic life as well, and as a public official whose tenure of office was made notable by conscientious and constructive work in behalf of his city and its people. Mr. Owen was born March 9, 1843, in the State of New Jersey, his parents being Alpheus and Frances (Hinchman) Owen. His education was commenced in his native state, but when he was twelve years of age he was brought to Michigan by his parents, the family settling at Orion, Oakland county, where the youth completed his studies in the public schools. His first employment in business was as a clerk in a department store at Orion, and his hard and intelligent work brought him repeated promotion, which, in turn, served to make him confident and self-reliant, and to develop his abilities as well as his character. He was but little past his majority when he was married, Sept. 29, 1864, to Miss Lucia T. Bessey, thus founding a home of his own and entering upon a happy wedded journey that extended for a period of more than fifty years. He continued to reside at Orion, being variously employed, always advancing, until July 4, 1870, when, seeking broader opportunities and an outlet for his energies, he came to Grand Rapids. His first connection, however, was with a Detroit house, that of Shaw & Marvin, with which concern he continued to be connected as a traveling representative for three years. When he left their employ it was to become identified with Fowler, Slocum & Foreman, of New York, and his identification with this establishment extended over a long period of time, during which Mr. Owen acted as the house's representative in the states of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. He became one of the best known men on the road, formed lasting friendships in every city of any size in his territory, and had connections with some of the largest concerns doing business within these limits. After spending a long and successful period on the road, Mr. Owen decided that he would settle down at Grand Rapids, and accordingly, in 1890, opened a music store. While the enterprise was successful in a material way, it did not satisfy Mr. Owen's spirit. Perhaps he had been too long on the road to remain quiet in any one place long; at any rate, after a comparatively short experience as a proprietor, he disposed of his interests and again took up his sample cases, for some years being the traveling representative for Marvin Stanton, of Detroit. Eventually he retired from active affairs and settled down peacably at Grand Rapids, where he passed the declining years of his life amidst the comforts and conveniences that a life of industry and right living had brought him. On Sept. 29, 1914, he and Mrs. Owen celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary, but he survived only a little over a year thereafter, passing away Oct. 30, 1915. Mrs. Owen still survives him and resides at Grand Rapids,

Hosted by Google

where she is surrounded by a host of friends. Mr. Owen was not one to push himself forward as a candidate for public honors, but he never evaded his responsibilities as a citizen, and in 1903 accepted the Republican nomination for the office of alderman from the Second ward. Being duly elected by a handsome majority, he took his seat in the City Council chamber, May 1, 1903, and served his constituents ably and conscientiously for four years, leaving that body, in 1907, with a record for clean, honorable and energetic work as a public servant. As a fraternalist, Mr. Owen belonged to the Masons and was a member of DeMolai Commandery, K. T. His standing among his fellow traveling men is noted in the fact that for several years he was honored by election to the secretaryship of the Michigan Knights of the Grip.

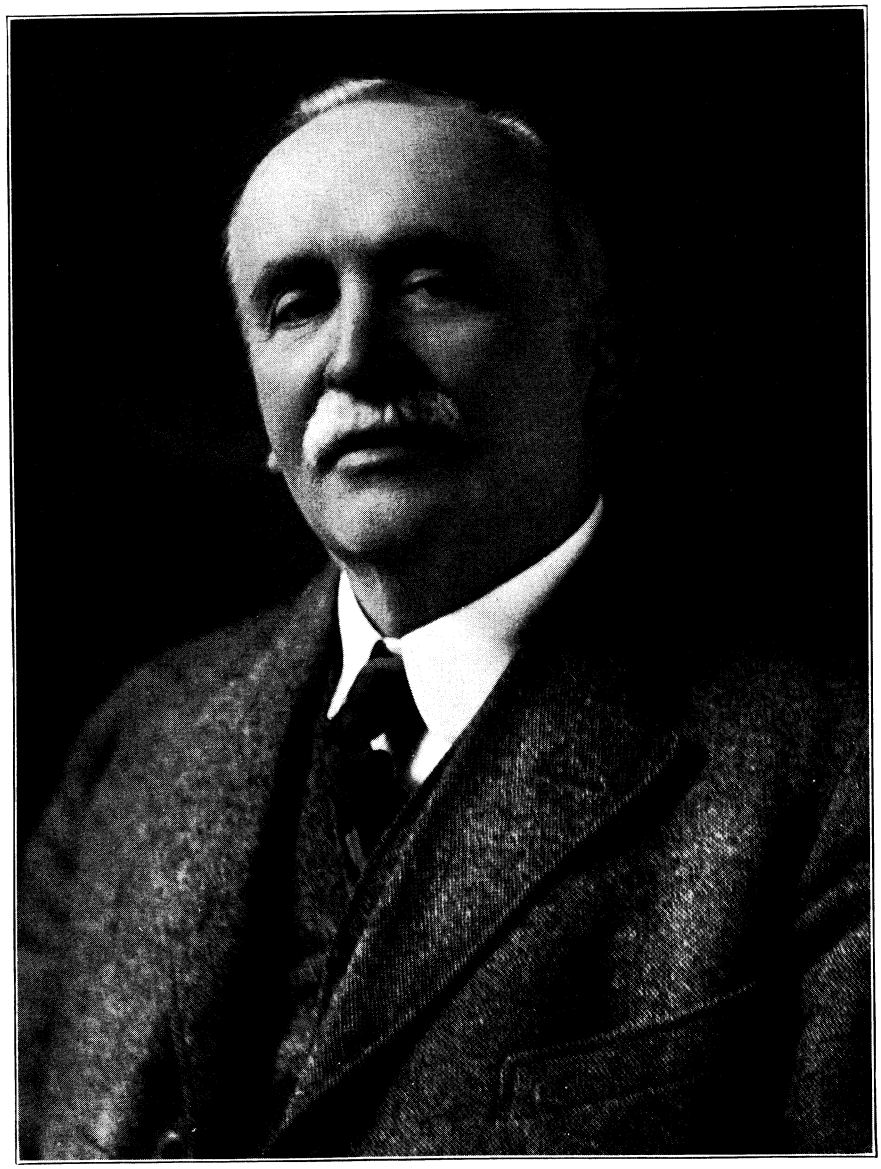
Pantlind Hotel.—In Grand Rapids, the business of hotel keeping has been developed into an actual science. As the city has grown and developed, it has been more and more imperative that there be maintained hostelries capable of providing comfort and shelter not alone for the transient population, but for the large number of furniture buyers who visit the city during January and July of each year. In 1915 there was completed one of the costliest and most handsome structures in the state, the Pantlind Hotel. This was the completion of more than three years of earnest work on the part of a progressive set of Grand Rapids business men, who had realized the needs of the city in this direction and who capably carried their plans through to a successful finish. On Aug. 17, 1912, there was founded what is known as the Pantlind Building Company, incorporated for $1,000,000. The original officers of the company were: Clay H. Hollister, president; Charles R. Sligh, vice-president; Meyer S. May, treasurer; and L. Victor Seydel, secretary. The first board of directors consisted of the following: Lewis H. Withey, Charles F. Rood, A. W. Hompe, John Hoult, William Judson, Roy S. Barnhart, Charles R. Sligh, Robert D. Graham, Clay H. Hollister, Meyer S. May, O. H. L. Wernicke, John A. Covode and William C. Grobheiser. This company acquired the site of Sweet's Hotel, an old Grand Rapids landmark, the ground being secured at an outlay of $483,004.19, and contracts were let for the building of the structure, which commenced in June, 1913. The contract price agreed upon was $1,332,869, and the first section was completed in October, 1914, the entire building being ready for occupancy in September, 1915. In the new section there are 460 rooms, making a total of 496 rooms, and the hotel in every particular is one of the finest to be found in the Middle West or elsewhere, either in equipment or service. L. Victor Seydel, secretary of the Pantlind Building Company, was born at Lake Station, Ind., Jan. 24, 1875. He was educated in the schools of Hobart, Ind., where he was graduated in the high school. With some business experience back of him, in 1911 he came to Grand Rapids and started to deal in stock. He soon formed large and important business connections and impressed himself favorably upon his associates, so that when the organization of the Pantlind Building Company was effected, he was chosen for the difficult post of secretary. The capable and expeditious manner in which he discharged his duties placed him still further in the confidence of those connected with him. Mr. Seydel is well known in club circles of Grand Rapids, holding membership in the Peninsular, O-wash-ta-nong and Kent Country clubs.

Hosted by Google

John Edward Peck.—Numbers of able men have been identified for many years with important interests at Grand Rapids, but few have left a more definite impress upon the city, not only in business circles, but also along those lines in which high personal character is demonstrated and sterling virtues are made manifest, than the late John Edward Peck. His was a noble, inspiring, helpful life worthy of emulation. During his forty-two years in this city he made an enviable reputation as a business man of sound judgment and unquestioned integrity, a capable manager, a supporter of worthy enterprises, a friend of progress and a warm-hearted and sincere philanthropist. John Edward Peck was born at Newburgh, in Orange county, New York, March 4, 1844. His death occurred in New York City, March 12, 1916. His father, Dr. Elias Peck, was a practicing physician at Newburgh and a practical pharmacist and for many years conducted a drug store in that city. He was a man of local importance and possessed sterling traits of character that became the heritage of his son. John Edward Peck completed his preparatory education in the schools of his native place and then became a student in Cooper Institute, New York City, and after a period of instruction there returned to Newburgh and entered upon the study of pharmacy with his father as preceptor, and he assisted the latter in the management of the drug store. In this way he secured his knowledge of drugs and some business experience. In 1874 he came to Grand Rapids and engaged in the drug business, in association with his brother, Thomas M. Peck. The business was carried on under the style of the Peck Drug Store until 1905, when a new business organization was effected and the title of the business became the Peck Drug Company, John Edward Peck becoming the president of the company, in which he remained an active factor until the time of his death. While primarily identified with the great business development that accrued to the Peck Drug Company, ruling its policy and directing its various activities, Mr. Peck was not blind to other business opportunities, and with the practical sense that was a part of his composition he took generous advantage of them and thereby honorably built up a large fortune from a very modest beginning. For nearly thirty years he was a director of the Grand Rapids National Bank, of which he was vice-president for twelve years and held that office at the time of demise. He early became interested in accumulating real estate and acquired many valuable properties, dealing in the same being one of his many extensive interests. Many men with a multiplicity of personal affairs to which they must give attention are prone to devote but little time to civic matters, but such was not the case with Mr. Peck. His loyalty to Grand Rapids was sincere and his zeal in her behalf continued unabated as long as he lived. Personally and in co-operation with other public-spirited men, he sought occasions to be helpful, and many admirable improvements and needed reforms may be justly attributed to his influence. Mr. Peck was married in June, 1874, to Miss Hannah M. Carpenter, born in New York City, April 24, 1854, and she died in New York City, Jan. 31, 1916. She came of equally sturdy stock with her husband, descending from an old Empire State Quaker family that was representative of high ideals in education, morality and simplicity of living. She early gave evidence of strong intellect and was but fifteen years

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



JOHN E. PECK

Hosted by Google



MRS. JOHN E. PECK

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

old when she was graduated in a select Quaker school on Fourteenth street, New York City, carrying off the honors, although she was the youngest member of her class. For several years afterward she devoted herself to the study of music and foreign languages. When her father died she accompanied her mother in the family removal to Norwalk, Conn., and it was in that city that she was married, at the age of twenty-six years, to John Edward Peck. They were privileged to spend their entire after life together, with the exception of a few months of its close. Three children were born to them: Percy S.; Bessie, who died at the age of fourteen years; and Clara Louise. In the various philanthropic enterprises in which Mr. Peck was concerned, Mrs. Peck took a deep interest. Kindness of heart was the foundation of her nature. This kindness and sympathy were also continually evidenced by Mr. Peck, who combined it with practical effort in his endeavors to ameliorate the conditions of the laboring class. On many occasions he proved his honesty, courage and sincerity in their behalf and probably no man in this city was held by them in more esteem. As they believed in him he believed in them and their cause never had a more steadfast friend.

Lewis T. Peck.—In touching upon matters of importance relative to the business growth and development of Grand Rapids, whose manufacturing fame has spread to far-distant corners of the world, it is fitting to dwell, however briefly, upon the services of those who have made possible existing conditions. These men have rendered inestimable assistance to their community, dealing direct with stout realities without offering vague theories, and as a result achieving remarkable progress in their business enterprises. Among the men of Grand Rapids whose careers have been connected directly with the city's advancement as a manufacturing center, one who has for thirty-seven years been identified with the city's busy life is Lewis T. Peck, secretary and treasurer of the William A. Berkey Furniture Company. Mr. Peck was born at Port Byron, N. Y., July 25, 1857, son of Ira and Marcia (Dixon) Peck, natives of the State of New York, where the father was a lumberman and both passed their lives. There were five children in the family: James E., deceased; Gaylord E., a resident of Los Angeles, Cal.; Clarence E., of Grand Rapids; Clara B., wife of H. E. Traphagen, of this city; and Lewis T., of this notice. Lewis T. Peck was given an ordinary educational training in the public schools of the place of his birth, and when still a lad displayed his ambition and industry by seeking and securing employment. For a time he was engaged to keep books in a small bank at Port Byron, and with this experience went to Auburn, N. Y., where for a time he was bookkeeper in a dry goods establishment. This latter occupation, however, did not prove congenial and he returned to Port Byron, where he found more attractive work in the lumber business. Mr. Peck remained in his birthplace until 1881, at which time, believing that his fortune could be found in the West, he came to Michigan and at once located at Grand Rapids. Here opportunity awaited him in the form of a position as bookkeeper with the William A. Berkey Furniture Company, which was founded during that year by William A. Berkey, the original plant and offices being located at the corner of Louis and Campau streets. Mr. Peck was found to be industrious and faithful and also alert and capable, so that when

Hosted by Google

the concern was incorporated for $85,000, as a stock company, in 1886, he was chosen as secretary and treasurer, offices which he has retained to the present time. In the meanwhile the offices and plant had been removed to its present location, at 39-55 Market avenue, N. W. At the death of William A. Berkey, in January, 1902, William H. Jones, former vice-president, became president, an office which he holds today, while E. B. Jones is now vice-president. There are now 150 skilled mechanics at work in the plant and five traveling representatives cover the United States and Canada in the interests of this concern, the product of which is the highest grades of mahogany dining room and library furniture, for which there is a constant and healthy demand. During his long connection with the business Mr. Peck has become widely known to the trade, his friendships in which are many. He is a prudent business man who makes sure of each step before it is taken and rarely allows outside matters to disturb him from the even routine of his way, but he has several other important business connections as well as profitable investments. He is a Republican, but not a politician, preferring to let his citizenship take some other form of expression than that which is evidenced in office-seeking. He and the members of his family belong to the Westminster Presbyterian church and are liberal donators to its movements as well as to those of charitable enterprises. As a fraternalist Mr. Peck has reached the Thirty-second degree of Masonry. The marriage of Mr. Peck occurred Feb. 17, 1878, when he was united with Miss Stella A. Yates, of Port Byron, N. Y., daughter of Cornelius P. and Catherine (Clow) Yates, of that place. Three children have been born to them: Clarence and Eugene, twins, deceased; and Bernice E., wife of A. G. Green, of Grand Rapids.

H. Algernon Peckham.—To the man of average success the varied and substantial results achieved by the late H. Algernon Peckham seem out of all proportion to his comparatively brief tenure of life and in no wise remarkable advantages or opportunities. Richly endowed with the qualities of initiative and resource, concentration and enthusiasm, and with the village of Lowell as the setting of his ambitions, his varied responsibilities at the time of his death included his positions as secretary and treasurer of the Lowell Cutter Company, vice-president and a director of the Lowell State Bank and secretary of the Lowell Board of Trade. Mr. Peckham was born at Virgil, N. Y., July 10, 1872, a son of A. H. Peckham, who now resides on Paris avenue, Grand Rapids. His education was secured in the public schools, but when he was thirteen years of age his ambition to become a figure in the business world caused him to leave home and go to Cortland, N. Y., where he entered the employ of a firm of manufacturing confectioners. His first position was a humble one, but so well did he display his talents and so capable did he prove in the discharge of the duties devolving upon him, that within four years he had risen to the post of bookkeeper, and at that time accepted an advantageous offer from the First National Bank of Cortland, with which institution he remained two years. For the three years that followed he was identified with the G. H. Dunston Lithographing Company of Buffalo, as bookkeeper and manager, but he had been driving himself too hard and found that he needed a rest. Accordingly, at the suggestion of his father, he came for a year's vacation to

Hosted by Google

Lowell. So struck was he by the opportunities here presented, that when his rest was over he decided to remain in the community, and in 1898 he became a partner in the Lowell Cutter Company, a concern with which he continued to be connected until his death, March 12, 1911. In this concern he rose rapidly until he had attained the positions of secretary and general manager, and it was under his able management that the company made such phenomenal progress that it became rated as one of the leading concerns in its line in the state. He subsequently became one of the active organizers of the Lowell State Bank and was its vice-president and one of its directing board, and for several years was secretary of the Lowell Building & Loan Association. Always active in matters that affected the business and financial welfare of his adopted place, he was for a long period one of the most energetic workers in the Board of Trade and the high esteem in which he was held by his associates was evidenced when they elected him to the difficult post of secretary of that body, an office which he retained until his demise. In public life he was e energetic and progressive. He was a Republican and served several years as village trustee, always being an advocate of the things that promised civic betterment, while in religious matters he took a keen and helpful interest, being for some time secretary and treasurer of the Congregational church. He was also a prominent club and lodge man and his friends were legion throughout the village. Lowell has seldom been called upon to mourn the death of a man who had accomplished so much in such a brief period of time, or who had been held in higher esteem or greater general confidence. Mr. Peckham was married, Sept. 4, 1895, to Hattie M., daughter of B. G. and Eunice (Sherman) Wilson. Mr. Wilson, a native of New York, was reared in New York City and as a young man came to Lowell, where he became prominent and influential in business life. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Peckham: Thelma, born June 8, 1900, and now attending college; Victor, born April 2, 1906; and Howard, born July 11, 1910. The last two named are attending the Lowell graded schools. Mrs. Peckham, a native of Lowell, has passed her entire life here and is widely known in social and religious work in the city.

George Peel.—An experienced and successful general farmer and a highly respected citizen of Kent county is George Peel, who owns a valuable farm of about 100 acres located on section 27, Cascade township. This is the farm on which he settled when first coming to the county and on which he has carried on operations during a period of forty years, in the meantime winning the same kind of prominence and reputation as a straightforward and public-spirited citizen as he enjoys as an agriculturist. Mr. Peel was born at Avon, Lorain county, Ohio, Sept. 4, 1843, son of William and Elizabeth (North) Peel, natives of England, where they were educated, reared and married. The parents of Mr. Peel emigrated to the United States in 1842 and immediately settled in Ohio, where they purchased land in Lorain county and engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which they continued during the remainder of their lives. In their declining years they retired from active labor but did not leave the Ohio farm, and the only time they came to Michigan was when on a visit to the home of their son. They were honorable and worthy people, industrious and persevering, and faithful members of the Baptist church. Mr. Peel

Hosted by Google

was a Republican, but took little or no part in politics, his life's activities being devoted to his farm and his home. Mr. and Mrs. Peel were the parents of the following children: John, deceased; Thomas, a resident of North Park, Mich.; Mary, who died when twenty-two years of age; Charles and Francis, deceased; George; Elizabeth and Joseph, deceased; and Sarah Jane, a resident of Ohio. George Peel was given the usual opportunities for an education granted to farmers' sons in his day and locality, and when he had completed the rudiments of learning in the district school began to give his whole attention to assisting his father in making the home property a paying one. In the meantime he also found time to learn the trade of carpenter, and when he reached his majority turned his attention to that vocation, which he followed in various Ohio communities for eight years. Eventually he returned to the occupation of his youth, buying a farm of forty acres in the vicinity of Plainfield, Kent county, Michigan, and this he cultivated until 1877. Mr. Peel then removed to Cascade township, Kent county, and here bought eighty acres of land, to which he added twenty acres later, although he subsequently sold off two and one-half acres. The Gem farm, as it is known, is one of the valuable and handsome properties of Cascade township, and it has all been of Mr. Peel's own making. He cleared much of the land, did all the fencing and other carpenter work, erected the stanch buildings and did all his other work himself, and can truly say that his success with his land has been made by his own unaided efforts. Naturally, his chief interests lie in the cultivation of this land, but he also has various other interests, of a business character, being a stockholder in the Alto Elevator and in the Bank of Alto. Politically a Republican, he has taken some interest in party affairs and has served his community on several occasions in the capacity of pathmaster. With his family he belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Peel was married, Dec. 23, 1869, to Eliza, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Mawhby) Walker, natives of England who, on coming from that country, located on a new farm in Lorain county, Ohio, and later also owned another farm in the same state. There they passed their lives. Mr. Walker was a Republican, and he and his worthy wife were members of the Baptist church. They had the following children: Josiah, William, John, Thomas, Elizabeth, Joseph, Sarah, Ann, Alfred and Eliza, born June 30, 1846, of whom Joseph, Alfred and Eliza are the survivors. To Mr. and Mrs. Peel the following children have been born: Nettie E., born Oct. 22, 1870, married George Hutchinson, of Clarksville, Mich., and has seven children—Duane, Viola, Muriel, Charles, Melvin, Marion and Lillian, of whom Viola married Arthur Brown, of Caledonia township, and has two children—Charlotte and an infant son; William Arthur, born April 7, 1874, a farmer in Cascade township, Kent county, married Nettie Frost, and they have had five children—Blanche (deceased), Vera, Harold, Ethel (deceased), and Gordon G.; Cora May, born Sept. 12, 1877, married Isaac Miller, of Caledonia township, Kent county, and has seven children—Harry, Bertha, Maynard, Mildred, Russell, Ethel and Howard; and Jessie E., born June 30, 1886, married Carl Graham, residing on the home farm, and has two children—Forest and Thelma.

Hosted by Google

John Wesley Pennell.—In the death of John Wesley Pennell, Kent county lost another of that generation of agriculturists upon whose energy, industry and foresight so much of the material greatness of the county was builded. He, with other men of his day, passed through an important period of the country's growth and assisted in the establishing of high agricultural standards and principles. Courage, faith and will belonged to the men of that day and John W. Pennell shared those manly virtues fully. His reward was success in a measure that any man might hope for and the respect of his fellow men which all men covet. He was born at Richmond, Ontario county, New York, April 21, 1832, son of John and Sallie (Green) Pennell, natives of Massachusetts and Vermont respectively, and farming people of New York who died at Richmond, to which place the paternal grandfather had removed from Colerain, Mass., many years before. John Wesley Pennell was reared and educated in the town of Richmond, N. Y. He followed farming about a year near Canandaigua, and in December, 1856, came to the West and located in Kent county, taking up his residence on a farm one mile south of the present city limits of Grand Rapids, in April, 1857, and on this farm he continued to be engaged in agricultural operations until his retirement in November, 1893. At that time he settled down to quietly enjoy the evening of his life in his comfortable home at Burton Heights, where his death occurred, Oct. 15, 1915. In spite of all that he accomplished as a successful agriculturist, Mr. Pennell was prouder of the fact that he had accomplished all this by himself than of his material success. He knew the struggles and hardships of his early days and what he had overcome, and so he appreciated what he had acquired more as a triumph over difficult circumstances than as a mere accumulation of means. He was a Republican, but did not seek public office, and his religious relations were with the Universalist church. Mr. Pennell was married March 29, 1855, to Celia D., daughter of Isaac D. and Susan (McCrossen) Hazen. She was born, reared and educated in the town of Richmond, N. Y., where her father was a merchant. Her parents came to Grand Rapids in 1855, both Mr. and Mrs. Hazen dying in this city after some years of retirement. She survives her husband and resides in an attractive home at No. 1839 Division avenue, South. Mr. and Mrs. Pennell became the parents of the following children: John W., a resident of Irvington, Ala., and the father of two children—Susan Hazen, deceased, and Mrs. La Myra P. Ayer, of San Francisco, Cal.; Harriet P., of Boulder, Colo., who is married and the mother of three children—Jessie H., Gerald Leroy Weatherwax, and George W., deceased; James H., deceased; Jessie E., who is unmarried and makes her home with her mother at Grand Rapids; Charles G., of Bay City, Mich., who has five children—John W., Hamilton Adams, Elizabeth, Janet and Charles G., Jr.; and Don Hazen, of Irvington, Ala., who has three children—J. Hazen, Roderick Pratt and Helen Adalaide.

Hon. Willis Barnes Perkins, judge of the Circuit Court of Grand Rapids, has earned a distinguished place at the bar and on the bench of Kent county. It is forcibly illustrative of his legal solidity and versatility that he should have made a high record as a private practitioner, a prosecuting attorney for the state, and a learned, impartial jurist. Being firmly grounded in the principles and precedents of the

Hosted by Google

law, his mind is left clear and positive to work along definite lines of thought, and thus it is that he has always had his case firmly in hand and could never be diverted to side issues, which has been the prime secret of his great legal strength and success. Judge Perkins was born at Linden, Genesee county, Michigan, Feb. 7, 1861, a son of Delos A. and Marilla A. Perkins. When he was eight years of age he removed with his parents to Fenton, Mich., and six years later came to Grand Rapids, where he has since remained, with the exception of about five years, during which time he lived at Kalkaskia, Mich. Although he had the advantages to be gained by attendance at the public schools of Fenton and Grand Rapids, his early career was one in which he was compelled to meet and overcome discouraging obstacles, and frequently he was obliged to seek employment with different firms at Grand Rapids. Assisted by the tireless and loving aid of his parents, and particularly of his mother, he was enabled at last to surmount his early difficulties, and in 1880 embarked upon the study of law in the office of Kennedy & Thompson. From early youth he had been possessed of a predilection for a legal career, and after one year spent in the law office entered the law department of the University of Michigan, in which institution he was graduated two years later with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. His ambitions seemed about to be gratified, but he was not as yet financially able to start upon an independent career, and for one year acted as assistant in the office of Stuart & Sweet, legists of Grand Rapids. In 1883 he removed to Kalkaskia, Mich., where he became associated in the practice of his profession with A. A. Bleazby, this connection continuing for about one year. Several cases with which he had been identified brought Mr. Perkins favorably before the public as a lawyer of ability, and in November, 1884, he was elected prosecuting attorney, an office which he filled with ability and fidelity for one term. Upon the expiration of his term of office he formed a partnership with Ernest S. Ellis, which continued until January, 1888, when it was mutually dissolved, Mr. Perkins then practicing alone until March, 1889. At that time his office and library were destroyed by fire and he returned to Grand Rapids and went into partnership with Edwin F. Sweet, one of his former preceptors. In February, 1895, Hon. J. Byron Judkins joined the firm, the style of which became Sweet, Perkins & Judkins, and in July, 1897, Messrs. Judkins and Perkins formed the independent law firm of Judkins & Perkins. In 1899 Judge Perkins was elected judge of the Circuit Court of Kent county, and Jan. 1, 1900, entered upon his duties with characteristic vigor and determination. Upon his unimpeachable record as a lawyer, a man and a judge, his re-election was a foregone conclusion, and in April, 1905, he entered upon his second term. Since that time he has been regularly chosen to succeed himself, and few jurists stand higher in the confidence and esteem of their fellow-members of the bench, of the legal fraternity, or of the public at large. He is the author of Perkins' "Evidence of Survivor," and has written much that has been of great value to the profession, not only in Michigan but the country at large. On Sept. 1, 1886, he married Miss Mary E. Holden, daughter of the late E. G. D. Holden, of Grand Rapids. The children of this union are Charles Holden, who married Marjory Kedzie, of Lansing, and they have two children; Willis B. Perkins, Jr.; Mary, Margaret and

Hosted by Google

Ransom B. Perkins. Mary married Gordon R. West, of Cassa Grande, Ariz.

Deb Phelps.—Any list of the prominent and influential agriculturists of the northern part of Kent county would be decidedly incomplete did it not contain the name of Deb Phelps, of Nelson township. Mr. Phelps is a widely traveled man who has visited various parts of the country, and wherever he has gone has readily made friends and kept them. In his own community his popularity and the confidence in which he is held are shown by the fact that he has been called upon by his fellow-citizens to fill some of the most important offices within the gift of the people. Mr. Phelps was born on his father's farm in Nelson township, Kent county, Michigan, Aug. 30, 1875, and belongs to a family which is highly respected in this part of the county, an old and prominent one, Mr. Phelps' father having been the incumbent of a number of official positions. The education of Mr. Phelps was secured in the public schools of Cedar Springs, the home farm being located not far from that thriving town, and while he was growing to manhood he spent much of his time there, while making business trips and others, and thus came into contact with not only the residents there but also the traveling public. During his active and diversified career Mr. Phelps has become well informed as to many lines of business, gaining an extensive fund of knowledge from his connection with several lines of endeavor. For some years he was not permanently located in any one place, but went from point to point, and thus covered a large part of the West. Out of this experience he secured not only a knowledge of men and conditions, but a general broad outlook on life that cannot be attained in the confining limits which bound an individual who has never traveled. When he decided to settle down permanently Mr. Phelps returned to Nelson township and located on his present farm, which is in the immediate vicinity of Cedar Springs. Here he has a well-cultivated and productive farm, upon which he grows the standard crops of the locality, and these in their size and excellence prove Mr. Phelps' agricultural prowess and knowledge. He has up-to-date equipment and good stock, substantial buildings and other improvements, and his farm is a valuable one. As a citizen he has been active and helpful and has frequently been before the people as a candidate and just as frequently elected. He has served in various offices, including that of treasurer of Nelson township, in which he acted capably and faithfully for two terms. Mr. Phelps married Miss Pearl Haynes, of Courtland township, Kent county, and they are the parents of two children: Gladys E., a graduate of the Cedar Springs High School and the Michigan State Normal School, who has been a school teacher since September, 1917, in the rural districts and is rapidly becoming popular; and Leland, who is attending the Cedar Springs high school. Mr. Phelps' interest at this time is principally wrapped up in his farming operations, but he finds the time for companionship among his fellows and is a regular attendant at the meetings of Cedar Springs Lodge, Knights of Pythias, in which order he is very popular with his fellow-members.

Wallace C. Philbrick.—One of the old and substantial business houses of Grand Rapids and one that through many years has maintained a high reputation for business integrity, honorable principles

Hosted by Google

and straightforward commercial transactions, is that bearing the name of Foster, Stevens & Company. This concern, than which there is none better known in the hardware trade of Grand Rapids, has had among its officials in the past some of the ablest business men which the city has produced, and at the present time many of its policies are being outlined by men of the younger generation, who are seemingly being successful in their efforts to maintain the high reputation attained by those who went before them. Wallace C. Philbrick, connected with this concern throughout his business career, belongs to the younger generation and now fills very satisfactorily the position of secretary. He is a native son of Grand Rapids, and was born May 16, 1888, his parents being Charles C. and Hattie (Brooks) Philbrick. Charles C. Philbrick was born at Cassopolis, Cass county, Michigan, and was six years of age when brought by his parents to Grand Rapids, here obtaining a common school education. After engaging in several lines of endeavor, he became connected with the hardware firm of Foster & Stevens, and later was made a member of the firm, being identified therewith until his death, which occurred Feb. 16, 1914. Mrs. Philbrick, who was born at Niles, Berrien county, Michigan, is also deceased. Wallace C. Philbrick was thoroughly trained in his youth for whatever vocation he might enter, attending first the public schools of Grand Rapids, later Northwestern Military Academy, and finally the Detroit University School. Expressing a preference for a commercial career, when his studies were completed he accepted a position as clerk in the offices of Foster & Stevens, and gradually rose from post to post until finally he was admitted to the firm and was elected secretary. He is recognized as a business man of the progressive and aggressive type, one who may be depended upon to make the most of every opportunity and to adopt the most modern methods, be they honorable. While he has devoted every energy to the furtherance of the interests of the firm, even to the exclusion of politics, he has not been indifferent to the general business welfare of the city, and has given conditions the benefit of his experience and ability as a member of the Association of Commerce and the Builders and Traders Exchange. He is a Knight Templar Mason and a Shriner, and a popular member of the Peninsular, Highland Country and O-wash-ta-nong clubs. Mr. Philbrick's marriage to Ruth, daughter of Henry Krekel, of Grand Rapids, took place in this city, Oct. 31, 1915.

John W. Phillips.—Prominent among the agriculturists of Kent county is John W. Phillips, who has been a resident of this section practically all his life, his present home being in the Sand Lake community. All his interests from boyhood have been closely associated with this locality and no man hereabouts is better known. He has developed and built up an excellent property, upon which he is carrying on extensive general farming operations, and his success is all the more gratifying to him, in that it has been self-achieved, he having started life with only his own ability and industry to aid him. Mr. Phillips was born in Worcestershire, England, Aug. 9, 1856. His father, Thomas Phillips, was also a native of England, where he passed his life as a farm laborer and did not live to see his plans materialize. He married Ann Butcher, daughter of William Butcher, of Worcestershire, England, the latter of whom was for a time postmaster of his native town there, and of this union were born three

Hosted by Google

children: Emma, who died at Sand Lake as the wife of Perry Bradford, a mill worker of Cedar Springs; William, who is engaged in farming and still resides in England; and John. John Phillips was but four years of age when he was orphaned by the death of his father, and as he had no relatives in England who were in circumstances which would permit them of taking care of him, he and his sister were tagged by an aunt, placed on a vessel, and shipped to America. Here they found relatives at Sand Lake who reared them and saw to it that they secured a public school education, and when John Phillips left school he at once became a member of the army of world's workers, securing employment in the mills, where his boyhood and youth were spent in unending daily toil. He is still in possession of a picture of one of the mills in which he worked, one of the oldest in this section of the country. It was not Mr. Phillips' intention, however, to grind out his life as a mill-worker, for he had ambitions beyond such a career, and with this end in view he carefully saved what he could of his earnings. When he was ready to make the change he was married and settled down to an agricultural life, in which he has been engaged to the present time. He is now owner of a valuable property which brings him a good income, and he has worked his own way to a position where he commands and receives the esteem and respect that is only given men who have worked and achieved with their own hands and through their own brains. Mr. Phillips married Martha Saace, a daughter of David Seece, a farmer of Nelson township, and of this union have been born eight children, all of whom are living: Thomas, living on the home farm and assisting his father; Charley, also engaged in farming; Mary, wife of Phillip Lawrence, a chemist of Chicago; Minnie, wife of Edward Johnson, of Grand Rapids, Mich., connected with a creamery of that city; Blanche, who is married to Andrew Westegard; Ruth, wife of Carson Cramer, a railroad man at Muskegon, Mich.; John, who was connected with the Grand Rapids Power Company but is now with the 339th Infantry, U. S. Army, Company A.; and Bertha, who was connected with a dye works at Grand Rapids and is now at Norfolk, Va. Mr. Phillips was married for his second wife to Fannie Giddings, of Sand Lake, daughter of Jonas and Anna (Joice) Giddings, of English stock. Mr. Phillips has never aspired to public office, but is a good citizen who realizes and discharges his responsibilities. He is a Mason, belonging to Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., for the past thirty-eight years, and in political matters he is a Republican.

Edward Pierson.—That mankind accomplishes most in congenial occupations and among congenial surroundings is confirmed anew by the farmers of Kent county. Greater prosperity, as indicated by large properties, high-grade schools, churches and social organizations, it would be difficult to find in any agricultural community. A union standard of excellence and a concerted effort to maintain this standard is largely responsible for this desirable condition of affairs. Algoma township claims its full share of prosperity promoters, and among these one of the best known is Edward Pierson, owner of 150 acres of fine land and one of the prominent breeders of high-grade livestock in his community. Mr. Pierson was born in the village of Westchester, Chester county, Pennsylvania, April 23, 1865. He was given excellent educational advantages in his youth, attending the graded

Hosted by Google

and high schools and supplementing this by a full course at a normal school, and was thus fitted for a business life. Commercial activities, however, did not appeal to him, and instead he took up something that he considered more scientific, the vocation of agriculture, of which he had made somewhat of a study in his youth. At that time many of the farmers, a majority, perhaps, were still using the old hit-or-miss methods in their operations, but Mr. Pierson made no such mistake. He had carefully outlined plans, many of which did not come into general use for many years after, which he followed carefully and with excellent results. On coming to Michigan he located on the edge of Algoma and Solon townships, and in that locality has since developed a farm that is a credit both to himself and to the county. He is now known as the principal agriculturist of his community and has become recognized over a much larger area as a leading breeder of sheep, cattle and hogs. Of this he has also made an exhaustive study, with the result that he is obtaining some surprising results. At a time when the country is at war and all provisions must be produced in greater numbers, as well as conserved, it is men like Mr. Pierson who are doing a real service in their country's cause. His live-stock is of the highest quality, commanding a splendid figure in the market, and much of it is sold for breeding purposes. Personally, Mr. Pierson is an affable man, ready to meet his fellows on any ground, and he has a reputation for strict integrity. He has supported movements promulgated for the advancement of community interests and in other ways has displayed his public spirit. In politics he is a Republican. As a fraternalist he belongs to Lodge No. 48, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Pierson married Miss Jennie Worth, who, like her husband, is of a very genial disposition, with the result that she has numerous friends throughout the community.

Rev. Joseph S. Pietrasik.—It is but seldom that an outsider understands or appreciates the work of the Roman Catholic clergy. Fortunately these learned and honored prelates give but little thought to the criticisms or lack of appreciation on the part of the world, resting content with the realization that they have carried out the ideas of their superiors and achieved untold good for humanity. One of these distinguished priests of the Roman Catholic church is Rev. Joseph S. Pietrasik, pastor of St. Isidor's Church, Grand Rapids, than whom there is no more greatly beloved man in the city. Father Pietrasik was born at Wieritz, in German Poland, Aug. 26, 1874, and is a son of John and Antonina (Brzezinska) Pietrasik, his parents being natives of the same place. His father, who was a laborer in his native land, was an industrious and hard-working man, but was able to make no headway in the land of his birth and accordingly, in 1878, immigrated to the United States, where he felt he could make better plans for the establishment and education of his family and the achieving of a competency for his old age. The family located at Manistee, Mich., where John Pietrasik readily found employment, and where he resided during the remainder of his life, being variously employed at honorable means of making a livelihood. He was able, through hard and persistent work, to give his children fairly good educational advantages and at the same time to maintain his family in comfort. Both he and his wife had many friends, and both were

Hosted by Google

sincerely mourned when they died at Manistee at advanced ages. They were devout members of the Polish Catholic church and the parents of children as follows: John, who is a resident of Kewaunee, Wis.; Peter, deceased; Leo, who resides at Manistee, Mich.; and Rev. Joseph S. Rev. Joseph S. Pietrasik secured his early education in the parochial and public schools of Manistee and began his theological training at Detroit, where he spent five years as a student in a Polish seminary. Subsequently, he enrolled as a pupil at St. Francis Theological College, at Milwaukee, Wis., where he completed the prescribed course and was duly ordained, June 19, 1898, as a priest of the church. Father Pietrasik's first charge was at Ludington, Mich., where he remained for fourteen years and became greatly beloved by the people. He was successful in guiding them aright in their spiritual affairs and in gathering together a large congregation, and built the handsome St. Stanislaus' church at that place, remaining there until he received the call to Grand Rapids, Nov. 5, 1912, to take charge of St. Isidor's parish. This parish was established in 1901 and is one of the largest and most important in Michigan, including 558 families. The Sunday school is also a most important one, there being 662 children, under the guidance of thirteen teachers. It will thus be seen that there are enormous responsibilities attendant upon the work of the priest, who, of necessity, must be a man with wonderful capacity for labor, as well as possessed of marked business ability. He has devoted his talent, energy and heart to the interests of the people of his parish and can look back with pride and gratification upon the work which he has accomplished. The parish includes a parish house, parochial school, and Sisters' Convent, which houses the Sisters of Notre Dame, and the new church, built through the ability of Father Pietrasik, and which was consecrated, March 22, 1917; its cost was more than $70,000, exclusive of furniture. There are few more beautiful Catholic church edifices in Michigan.

Ernest J. Plett comes fairly within the representative class of younger men who at Grand Rapids have developed most successfully their talents for the handling of financial matters. Although now in but the very prime of life, he has been fully abreast of the ever-varying tide of banking affairs and in the management and disposition of the interests committed to his care as manager of the Division Avenue Branch of the Commercial Savings Bank he has steadily and legitimately achieved a prominence as a citizen and banker which is an indisputable proof, alike of worthy ambition, untiring industry and unswerving integrity. Mr. Plett is a native son of Grand Rapids and was born June 12, 1879, his parents being Hans J. and Mathilda (Wager) Plett. They are natives of Germany, who came to the United States about the year 1877, locating at Grand Rapids, where the father established himself in the meat business and subsequently developed large packing interests as a wholesale dealer. Through industry and good business management he became one of the substantial men of the city and in 1902 retired with a well-earned competence. Mr. Plett is independent in regard to political matters, and he and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church. He has numerous friends and belongs to several social organizations, among them the Arbeiter Verein, of which he is a charter member. There were four children in the family: Anna, wife of Albert H. Prange,

Hosted by Google

of Grand Rapids; Mary, deceased; Ernest J., of this notice; and Katherine, wife of Walter W. Schaantz, of Grand Rapids. Ernest J. Plett received his early education in the parochial and public schools of Grand Rapids, following which he pursued a commercial course at the McLachlan Business College, and with this preparation entered upon his career as an employe of the Christensen Baking Company, with which concern he was identified for two years. He then went to the Gunn Furniture Company, by which house he was employed one and one-half years, and following this he spent two years with the People's Savings Bank. In 1904 Mr. Plett commenced his connection with the Commercial Savings Bank, under C. B. Kelsey, and Nov. 3, 1914, was made manager of the Division Avenue Branch of this institution, which position he has since retained. Mr. Plett has impressed himself upon his associates as a man of ability in banking affairs, of sound and conservative judgment and of painstaking capacity for the handling of difficult and intricate problems which arise in the course of business. While the greater part of his attention is given to the institution with which he has been connected for so long, and to the interests of which he is intensely loyal, he also has not been adverse to accepting outside opportunities when they have presented themselves, and at this time he is the head of a prosperous tailoring business. His political views make him independent as a voter. Mr. Plett is a member of the German Lutheran church and Mrs. Plett of the Westminster Presbyterian church. He is prominent in Masonry, belonging to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, and DeWitt Clinton Commandery, and is also a Shriner, and he holds membership likewise in the Knights of Pythias. Socially he is identified with the Peninsular, Owashtanong and Highlands Golf clubs. Always interested in anything that affects the welfare of his city, Mr. Plett belongs to the Association Improvement Association, of which he is treasurer, and is also one of the active, working members of the Association of Commerce. Mr. Plett was married, May 22, 1905, to Katherine G., daughter of John and Cecelia (Garrick) Armstrong, of Grand Rapids, and they have two children: Ann Katherine and Frederick A., both attending school.

William Porritt.—The localities which do not include among their residents a due proportion of intelligent retired agriculturists lack an element that may be one of great importance. The life of the farmer leads to thought and contemplation, and a man who through his own toilsome efforts can acquire a competency and retire to enjoy it must be possessed of excellent judgment, which should be a valuable addition to community life. He should be a man with clear views concerning many things, and in Bowne township may be found a number of fine examples of the retired farmer, among them being William Porritt. Mr. Porritt has been a resident of Bowne township for nearly sixty years and has led a long, useful and exceptionally successful career. He was born near Greenfield, Wayne county, Michigan, Aug. 24, 1845, son of John and Alice (Walt) Porritt. Her parents, natives of Yorkshire, England, were married there and in 1830 came to the United States with various members of both the Walt and Porritt families. Here Mr. Porritt bought land in the woods of Wayne county, which is now included within the city limits of Detroit,

Hosted by Google

although at that time about five miles from the city proper, and continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits until his death, in 1849, when his son, William, was about three and one-half years old. In 1855 his widow disposed of the land there and moved to Oakland county, Michigan, where she purchased 120 acres, but remained only about three years, when she came with her children to Bowne township and bought eighty acres of land, upon which the first family home was a log cabin. One of Mr. Porritt's most prized possessions is an old picture of this little home and its interesting surroundings. There were eleven children in the family, of whom seven died young, those who grew to maturity being: John, deceased; Hannah; Eliza, a resident of Grand Rapids; and William, William Porritt was given the benefits of a training in the district schools, but the greater part of his boyhood training was secured in the school of hard work, and he was no doubt at that time more familiar with the axe and the scythe than he was with pen and books. He was only sixteen years of age when he assumed the responsibility of clearing the home farm in Bowne township for his mother, and after years of constant work of the hardest kind succeeded in his task, developing a productive and paying property. After the death of his mother he took over the management of the home place, gradually increasing its acreage and adding to its buildings and improvements, and as his children came of age was able to give them a start in life by helping them to secure farms. Mr. Porritt still retains eighty acres in section 27, but has retired from active pursuits and merely supervises the work being done on his land. His long and industrious career has resulted in the attainment of a competency for his declining years, and he has also won and held the esteem and respect of his neighbors, who have recognized his sterling qualities of character and have unhesitatingly given him their confidence and friendship. While he is a stanch Republican, he has not engaged actively in politics, nor has he cared for the honors of public position. Mr. Porritt was married, Jan. 25, 1867, to Rosa Platt, of Bowne township, and they have four children: Edith, who resides with her parents; Arthur, who married Florence Sinclair, is a farmer in Bowne township, and has eight children—Myra, Evelyn, Victor, Pauline, Grace, Lucy, Edith and Alice; Corwin, who married Clara Sinclair, and also follows farming in this township, the father of seven children—William, Marion, Myrtle, Rose, Gilbert, Francis and Robert; and Charley, who lives west of Alto and has one son, John.

Benjamin C. Porter, cashier of the South Grand Rapids State Bank, has had several years' experience with the uncompromising and accuracy-compelling methods of monetary science as revealed behind the counters of Michigan institutions. As are all successful and reliable cashiers, he is methodical in his habits and has been practical in his ambitions. Steadiness of life aim has been imparted to him by progenitors who braved the hardships and dangers of pioneer life in the State, and he himself is a product of the country, having been born on a farm in Wyoming township, Kent county, Michigan, April 18, 1864, a son of John and Elizabeth (Rossman) Porter, natives, respectively, of Seneca and Cayuga counties, New York. John Porter was a lad when he accompanied his parents to Michigan, the

Hosted by Google

family settling in Oakland county. There he grew to manhood and adopted farming for his life work, but in 1856 changed his residence to Wyoming township, Kent county, where he followed farming until his death. He was one of the substantial agriculturists of his day and locality, and was also not unknown to public life, having been sent to represent his district in the Michigan Legislature in 1862. He and Mrs. Porter, who is also now deceased, had a family of five children: James F., a resident of Stanwood, Mich.; J. Charles, who lives in the State of Washington; Benjamin C.; Nellie, wife of Dr. W. H. Ross, a practicing physician of Grand Rapids; and Sarah L., wife of M. R. Potter, of Lansing, Mich. After securing his preliminary education in the common schools of Wyoming township, Benjamin C. Porter entered the Michigan Agricultural College and was graduated in that institution with the class of 1884. Until he was forty years of age he followed the vocation of his forefathers, that of farming, and made a success of his operations, becoming the owner of a well-cultivated and valuable property. He had been, in the meantime, more or less interested in public affairs, and had served his township well and faithfully in the offices of township clerk two years, township treasurer for a like period and supervisor for seven years, and was finally appointed deputy county treasurer, an office in which he discharged his duties well for four years. At the time of the organization of the South Grand Rapids State Bank, Nov. 28, 1915, he became cashier of this institution, which was incorporated for $25,000, and threw open its doors to the public for business, Feb. 12, 1916. At the time of organization, George Wykes was president and W. T. Shaffer vice-president, but Mr. Shaffer subsequently succeeded Mr. Wykes in the presidential position, and W. H. Richardson became vice-president. The directors are: William H. Anderson, I. J. Bear, George H. Kirtland, Benjamin C. Porter, William H. Richardson, Nellie E. Ross, Wilmarth T. Shafer, George Wykes and Roger I. Wykes. A condensed report of the condition of the institution at the close of business, March 5, 1917, shows the following figures: Resources: Loans and discounts, $112,018.96; bonds and mortgages, $593,485.39; overdrafts, $232.13; banking house and fixtures, $11,000; cash and due from banks, $172,161.24. Liabilities: Capital stock, $25,000; surplus, $25,000; undivided profits, $3,020.03; deposits, $835,877.69. Mr. Porter is a large stockholder in the bank, and his wide acquaintance among the business men and farmers of Kent county renders him a valuable adjunct to its success. He is a strong Republican and a worker in behalf of his party, and belongs to the Masonic lodge. He is a promoter of stable and conservative interests, and as a citizen and banker maintains standards in keeping with the best welfare of the community. Mr. Porter was married, Nov. 14, 1888, to Fannie, daughter of Loren and Fannie (Knapp) Day, of Grandville, Mich., and they have one son, Benjamin C., Jr., assistant cashier of the South Grand Rapids State Bank, and one of the promising and enterprising young business men and financiers of the south side of the city.

Frank C. Powers.—An old business house of Grand Rapids that enjoys the entire confidence of the business world over a wide territory is the Powers & Walker Casket Company, of which Frank C.

Hosted by Google

Powers, son of one of the founders, is vice-president and sales-manager. Mr. Powers was born at Grand Rapids, April 30, 1868. His parents were William H. and Sarah L. (Bradford) Powers. He attended the public schools and after completing the high school course began working for the Grand Rapids Light & Power Company and continued so engaged until he was nineteen years old, going then, as paymaster, to the Valley City Cable Street & Railway Company, with which he remained several years and for two years afterward was with the Light & Power Company, in the capacity of chief engineer and superintendent. Mr. Powers then went to Chicago and there was engaged for a year with the Calumet Street Railway Company. Then he was with the Hyde Electric Light & Power Company for a time. He then returned to Grand Rapids for a short time, and then went to Chicago, where he became associated with the Goodman Manufacturing Company and remained with them about one year. In 1900 he returned to Grand Rapids and engaged with the Powers & Walker Casket Company as traveling salesman and continued on the road until 1914, when he became vice-president and took charge of the sales department as manager. In 1875 Joseph H. Walker and William H. Powers became interested in the casket manufacturing business. At that time Mr. Powers was operating a sash, door and blind factory on the site of the present casket factory, No. 213 Front avenue, N. W., and it was in this factory that the firm of Powers & Walker began a business that has developed into one of large importance. Mr. Powers was the first president of the company and held the office as long as he lived, his death occurring Feb. 25, 1895. He was succeeded by Mr. Walker, who continued president until his death, May 18, 1910, when Mrs. Sarah L. Powers, widow of the first president, succeeded to the office. The officials of the company are: Mrs. Sarah L. Powers, president; Frank C. Powers, vice-president and sales-manager; Frederick W. Powers, secretary; Clifford H. Walker, treasurer and superintendent. Frank C. Powers was married, July 10, 1890, to Miss Minnie Jennings, daughter of George and Margaret (Quealey) Jennings. Independent in politics, Mr. Powers feels free to use his own sound judgment in giving support to men and measures, and his public record shows that he has made few mistakes. He is earnest and active in advocating the bests interests of Grand Rapids at all times and belongs to the Association of Commerce. He is identified fraternally with the Elks and the Masons and is a Shriner.

Frederick W. Powers, secretary of the Powers & Walker Casket Company of Grand Rapids, bears a name that has been known and honored in this city for over forty years. He was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 19, 1866. His father was the late William H. Powers, one of the founders of the above business and his mother, Mrs. Sarah L. (Bradford) Powers, is the president of the company. It was May 31, 1875, that William H. Powers, who at that time was operating a sash, door and blind factory here, became interested, with Joseph H. Walker, in the casket manufacturing business. They were both men of industry and enterprise and, after purchasing the only casket business in Grand Rapids, established their factory at No. 213 Front avenue, N. W., which has been since retained, although

Hosted by Google

the plant has been greatly enlarged and modern facilities have been introduced. William H. Powers was the first president of the Powers & Walker Casket Company and continued in the office until his death, which occurred Feb. 25, 1895. Mr. Walker then succeeded to the presidency and continued at the head of the business as long as he lived, his death occurring May 18, 1910, when Mrs. Sarah L. Powers, widow of William H. Powers, became president, no change in the honorable policy of the business having been made in all these years. Frederick W. Powers obtained his education in the public schools and Swensberg's Business College in his native city and for two years afterward had practical training as an apprentice with the Grand Rapids Electric Light & Power Company, with which he was later identified for a number of years after returning from Spearfish, S. D., where he was a bookkeeper for six months in the lumber office of his grandfather, William T. Powers. On Feb. 24, 1903, he became associated with the Powers & Walker Casket Company and was elected vice-president. On Jan. 26, 1904, he was elected vice-president and secretary, and held these offices until March 2, 1907, when F. C. Powers became vice-president and Frederick W. secretary, which office he has held ever since. He is active in all that concerns substantial development at Grand Rapids and is a valued member of the Association of Commerce. In his political views he is independent, but never negligent as a citizen. Fraternally he has been identified with the Knights of Pythias and was a charter member of Imperial lodge at Grand Rapids, and he belongs to the Grand Rapids lodge of Elks and to the Owashtonong club. He was married, Sept. 8, 1898, to Miss Frances A. Patterson, daughter of James W. and Ida (Morse) Patterson, of Kalamazoo, Mich.

John W. Powers has been actively connected with the Grand Rapids bar for twenty-four years, during which period he has gained a substantial reputation as a close student of the law and a painstaking, able and strictly reliable attorney. Retained at one time and another by some of the large business interests of the city and county, his success in a number of important cases has been fairly and honorably attained, his abilities not only winning him material recognition, but the respect of his fellow-practitioners and the public in general. John W. Powers was born at Louisville, on the St. Lawrence river, in the county of that name, New York, Nov. 19, 1869, a son of Henry and Susan (Shoen) Powers. His father, a native of the Empire State, made the long journey over the plains to the gold fields of California as one of the original "forty-niners," but after a short experience there returned to New York, where he rounded out his life in agricultural pursuits, both he and Mrs. Powers dying there. John W. Powers secured his primary education in the public schools of Louisville, following which he attended the Potsdam (N. Y.) Normal School. Having decided upon the law as a profession, he matriculated in the University of Michigan and was graduated with the law class of 1894. In that year he began practice at Grand Rapids, where, through personal ability, continued industry and strict fidelity to the interests of his clients, he soon built up a gratifying practice. In 1906, in the administration of Prosecutor McDonald, he entered the prosecuting attorney's office as assistant, and in 1908 was appointed

Hosted by Google

to that position to fill an unexpired term. Upon his retirement from the office he resumed private practice and has since been identified with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of city, county and state. Mr. Powers belongs to the Kent County Bar Association and is a Mason. He was married in December, 1900, to Clara Belle, daughter of William and Helen (Stone) Winchester, of Grand Rapids, and they have two sons: John W. and Russell H.

Rev. Jerome Preisser.—The Roman Catholic church in Grand Rapids is represented by many able clergymen of such power and lives as would bring honor to any community in which they might live, men of such lovable natures as win the affections as well as the respect of those under their charge, and are consequently the better enabled to move their people along the path whose watchword is religion and whose lights are faith and morals. Of the Catholic priests of the diocese of Grand Rapids there is none of higher personal consideration among the members of his own faith, as well as those of a different religious opinion than the Rev. Jerome Preisser, pastor of St. Anthony's church. Father Preisser was born at Albany, N. Y., April 27, 1865, a son of Joseph and Mary (Frank) Preisser. His parents were natives of Germany, his father born in Bavaria and his mother in Baden, and they came to the United States when young and were married in Albany, N. Y., where Joseph Preisser was engaged in working as an employe of the New York Central Railway. Both parents are deceased. Rev. Jerome Preisser attended the parochial and public schools of Albany in his boyhood, and when his early training was completed enrolled as a student at St. Francis' College, at Syracuse, N. Y. Later he went to Rome, Italy, where his theological studies were prosecuted for four years, and April 12, 1891, he was ordained as a priest of the Catholic church. His first charge upon his return to this country was at Hoboken, N. J., where he was assistant at St. Joseph's church for one year, spent the next two years as assistant at the Church of the Assumption, Syracuse, N. Y., and then went to Louisville, Ky., where he remained for eighteen years as pastor of St. Peter's church. On Aug. 6, 1912, he was called to St. Anthony's parish, Grand Rapids. Under Father Preisser's spiritual direction are 200 families, while there are 145 children in the parochial school, taught by four teachers from the Dominican Sisters. The new church, the basement of which is now finished, was dedicated March 7, 1915, and when completed will be a monument to Father Preisser's artistic taste and successful energy. In the prime of his life, a man of active habits and never-failing industry, Father Preisser essays nothing for his parish in which he does not succeed. Neither is there any priest in Grand Rapids who has more thoroughly succeeded in endearing himself to his parishioners.

Ward W. Proctor.—The traveling public which visits the thriving community of Alto, Kent county, finds excellent accommodations awaiting at the Hotel Proctor, of which Ward W. Proctor is proprietor. During his career Mr. Proctor has been engaged in a variety of pursuits, which have included farming and the operation of several mercantile enterprises, and in each connection he has shown himself an able and energetic man of business. Since taking over the caravansary he has made his house one of the most popular in

Hosted by Google

southeastern Kent county and at the same time has maintained his reputation for honorable business methods and straightforward dealing. He was born near McCords (Whitneyville), in Cascade township, Kent county, Michigan, July 14, 1870, son of Oliver and Marcia (White) Proctor, natives of Walpole, Cheshire county, New Hampshire, who came to Michigan as young people. At the time of their marriage the parents had eighty acres of land in Cascade township, but this they later traded for another farm, near Whitneyville, where both died, the father in 1878 and the mother some years later. In addition to being an agriculturist, Oliver Proctor engaged extensively in buying live-stock, which he drove to Grand Rapids for disposal, and for several years he operated a threshing outfit. He was a well known and highly respected citizen of his township, and while never prominent in public life was always a factor in good movements and worked with other public-spirited citizens in gaining good government for his community. He and Mrs. Proctor were parents of three children: Lucy, wife of Frank Van Amburg, engaged in farming in Cascade township; Vella, wife of Will Thomas, a farmer of Whitneyville; and Ward W. Ward W. Proctor received his education in the public schools of Cascade township, following which he was engaged in farming for several years. His tastes, however, ran more toward a business career than one connected with agricultural work, and his career as a merchant commenced at Whitneyville, where he started a grocery. Subsequently, he removed to Alto, where he conducted a like business for nine years, and then for six years was proprietor of a meat market at the same place, at the end of that time removing to Grand Rapids, where he was in the meat business for three years. Returning to Alto in October, 1916, he embarked in the hotel business, when he bought his present house, naming it the Hotel Proctor. He has made numerous improvements and now has a hotel which is up-to-date in every respect, in the administration of which he has increased its patronage and elevated its standing. He is well known, not only at Alto, but throughout this section, as his position brings him into contact with people from the surrounding counties, as well as those from more distant points. He is genial and courteous, ever seeking to meet the wishes and provide for the comfort of the patrons of the house, and to his judicious supervision of every detail and department connected with the establishment is due its high reputation. His general and diversified business experience, his wide knowledge of men and his natural qualifications, make him just the man for the place of manager of a hotel. Mr. Proctor is a member of the modern Woodmen of America and is one of Alto's most popular citizens. He was married, April 3, 1895, to Margaret, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hobart McVean, of Bowne township. Mrs. Proctor has one sister, Lennie, wife of P. Frank Kline, who was township treasurer and is now with the Yeiter Company at Alto. To Mr. and Mrs. Proctor have been born two children: Neil and Lyle, both living with their parents.

William S. Proudfit.—In every large manufacturing city, such as Grand Rapids, there is to be found a class of men from the ranks of which are chosen those who are called upon for leadership in important enterprises. This industrial sovereignty is conferred by popular

Hosted by Google

recognition of superlative ability. Varied talents adapt these few men to captain enterprises of a varied nature; and they are, therefore, placed in a position to render highly valuable and valued services to their city, while at the same time securing for themselves a competence sufficient to their needs. By originating, organizing and directing a manufacturing enterprise which gives employment to a large number of people and adds to the city's prestige in manufacturing circles, William S. Proudfit, president of the Proudfit Looseleaf Company, has achieved just such a double object. Prior to coming to Grand Rapids, his experience had been varied and his activities diversified. Since locating in this city, however, he has practically devoted himself to one line, and he is now at the head of a prosperous and constantly-growing business. Mr. Proudfit was born at Edinboro, Pa., April 7, 1868, son of William S. and Harriet Amanda (Lewis) Proudfit. His father, who was a pharmacist and engaged in business in Edinboro, Pa., for twenty-seven years, is deceased, but his mother still survives and is a resident of Chicago. There were the following children in the family: Sheldon Lewis, a resident of Chicago; James M., also of that city; William S., of this notice; Sarah, widow of William Roden, of Chicago; and Ralph C., deceased. William S. Proudfit attended the public schools of Edinboro, Pa., and secured his early training for his business career in the commercial college of Bryant & Stratton, at Chicago. Returning to Edinboro, for five or six years he was engaged in the general merchandise business and then returned to Chicago and secured a position in the sporting goods house of Thorson & Cassidy. He was next employed in the general offices of Nelson Morris & Company, at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, following which he entered the Chicago branch of the Fire Association of Philadelphia. Later, in the same city, he was identified with C. J. Farwell & Company, bookbinders. Mr. Proudfit came to Grand Rapids in 1906 and started traveling on the road for the Edwards-Hine Company, as a salesman, but after a short experience left the road, and, with his brother, James M., established the firm of Proudfit & Company, for the manufacture of metal parts for the Proudfit devices, all the patents for which were (and still are) held by the brothers. This business was continued until 1908, when the Proudfit Looseleaf Company was established, this being a $60,000 corporation with the present officers: William S. Proudfit, president; William H. Edwards, vice-president and manager of sales and factory; and C. Evan Johnson, secretary and treasurer. Seventy people are employed in the Grand Rapids factory and office, one traveling salesman is on the road, and sales branches are maintained at the following points: Auburn, Binghamton, Buffalo, Glens Falls, Jamestown, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy and Utica, N. Y.; Altoona, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Punxsatawney and Scranton, Pa.; Appleton, Manitowoc, Marinette, Wilwaukee and Sheboygan, Wis.; Atlanta, Ga.; Baltimore, Md.; Boise, Ida.; Boston and Springfield, Mass.; Bangor, Me.; Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, New Philadelphia and Toledo, Ohio; Charleston, Huntington and Wheeling, W. Va.; Clinton, Creston, Davenport, Des Moines and Dubuque, Iowa; Dallas, Tex.; Detroit, Mich.; Denver, Colo.; Duluth and Minneapolis, Minn.; Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne and Indianapolis,

Hosted by Google

Ind.; Jacksonville and Tampa, Fla.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville, Tenn.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Cal.; Louisville, Ky.; Metuchen and Newark, N. J.; New Britain, Conn.; Norfolk and Richmond, Va.; Omaha, Neb.; Peoria and Rock Island, Ill.; Providence, R. I.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Seattle, Wash.; Tulsa, Okla.; Wichita, Kas.; Washington, D. C.; Amsterdam, Holland; Eskiltuna, Sweden; Toronto, Canada; Leicester, England; Aukland, New Zealand; and St. Johns, Newfoundland. The plant is two stories in height, 80x100 feet, and has 20,000 square feet of floor space, the building being complete throughout in equipment, machinery and labor-saving devices. Mr. Proudfit is one of the business men of Grand Rapids who has made his own way, and he has always carried out his transactions in an entirely honorable manner. As a result his reputation in business circles is an excellent one, and he well merits the esteem in which he is held by his associates. He is fraternally affiliated with the Masons and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Proudfit was married, first, Nov. 10, 1886, to Mattie, daughter of Elizer Goodrich, of Edinboro, Pa., and they became the parents of six children: Bernard M., of Grand Rapids; Russell E. and Kenneth L., deceased; Ruth, wife of Harry Smith, of Albion, Pa.; and Naomi and Leona, of Chicago, Mrs. Proudfit died, and Mr. Proudfit was again married, June 23, 1904, to Mrs. Jennie (Brown) Nicoll, of Chicago, Ill.

Henry J. Rademaker.—Connected during the past ten years with the Kent State Bank, and since February, 1914, manager of the Fulton Street branch of this institution, Henry J. Rademaker is one of the best known figures in the younger banking element of Grand Rapids. He has spent his entire life in this city, where he has been interested in a number of things that have aided the community in its aims for advancement, and at this time is a member of one of the organizations of his part of the city that is working along lines of progress. Mr. Rademaker was born at Grand Rapids, March 5, 1886, son of John L. and Jennie (Kievet) Rademaker. His father was born at Milwaukee, Wis., and was brought to the Furniture City when two years old, here being reared and educated and learning the trade of turner. For some years he worked for his father and later became a member of the firm of H. Rademaker & Sons, which is still in existence, although John L. Rademaker is now retired. He is a Republican, and a member of the La Grave Avenue Christian Reformed church, of which Mrs. Rademaker, who was born in the Netherlands and brought to Grand Rapids when about ten years of age, is also a member. There were five children in the family: Henry J.; Ada, wife of John Burg, of Grand Rapids; Lillian, wife of Louis De Maagd, of this city; Jay, also a resident here; and Elitha, who is unmarried and resides with her parents. After securing his education in the public schools of his native city, Henry J. Rademaker began his connection with business life as an employe of the American Seating Company in a clerical position. In 1907 he resigned his position to become a clerk in the Kent State Bank, and through industry, fidelity and ability won his way through several promotions until, in February, 1914, he was made manager of the bank's Fulton Street branch, an office which he has retained to the present time. He is recognized

Hosted by Google

as a clear-headed young banker, in whose entirely capable hands the interests both of the institution and the depositors are safe and whose likeable personality has been a decided factor in gaining new business for the institution. He is also secretary of the Furniture City Pearl Button Company and is otherwise known in business circles of the city. Politically he supports the Republican party, while his regard for his community's welfare finds expression in his work as a member of the West Fulton Improvement Society. For ten years Mr. Rademaker was a member of Company H, Michigan National Guard, and rose from private to first sergeant. He is now a member of the Michigan State Guards. His religious connection is with the La-Grave Avenue Christian Reformed church. Mr. Rademaker was married, April 20, 1908, to Florence, daughter of Spencer and Belle (Radley) Adams, of Lamont, Mich.

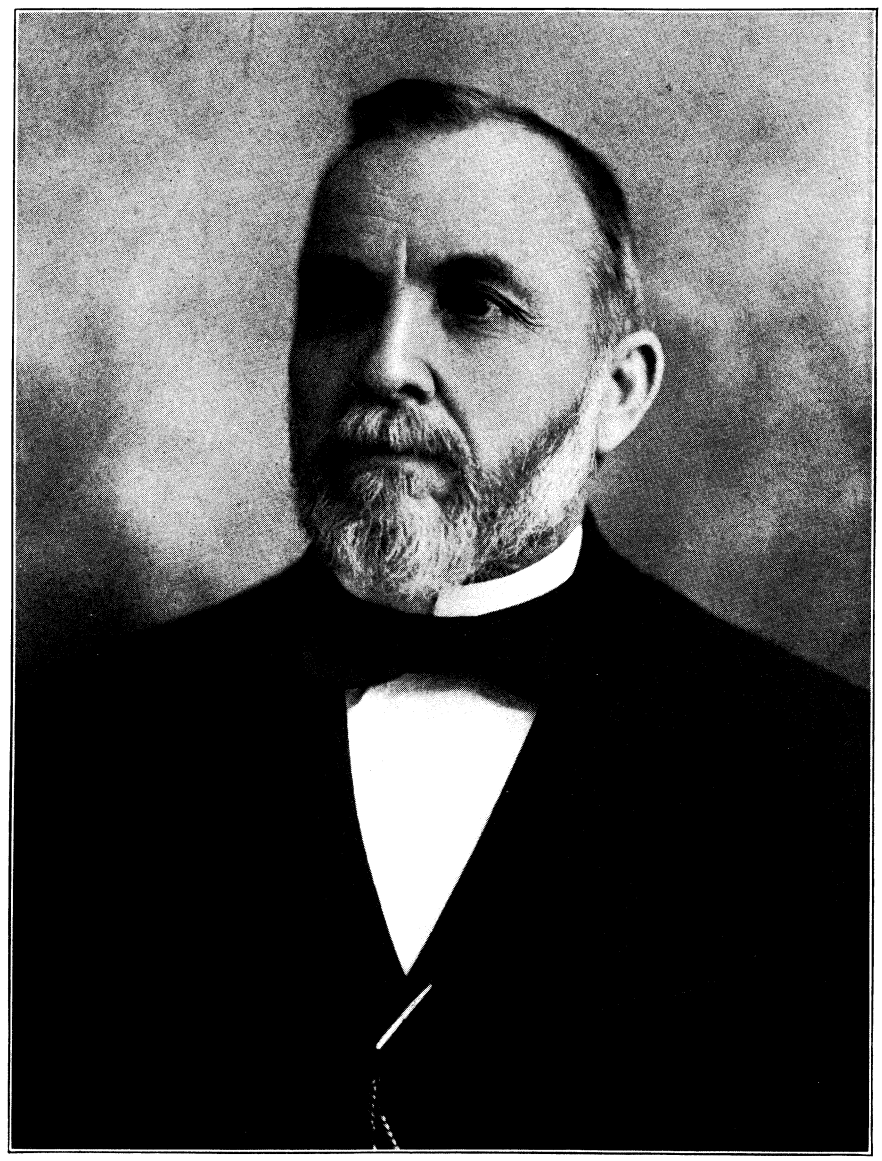
Samuel Haverstick Ranck, librarian of the Grand Rapids Public Library, was born on a farm in Lancaster township, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, just outside of the limits of the city of Lancaster, Oct. 23, 1866, oldest child of Jacob Eby and Martha Bausman (Haverstick) Ranck. Both parents are natives of Lancaster county, where they still live. The father's ancestors (Huguenots) came to the United States in 1729 and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, where many of the successive generations have lived. The old French spelling of the name was Ranc, and it is a tradition in the family that during the period of the religious wars in France some of them suffered martyrdom at the stake. The mother's ancestors (German and Swiss) came to America later in the Eighteenth century, and some of them served our country in the army of the American Revolution. Mr. Ranck has two brothers and three sisters, all of whom are living. At the age of five years he entered the district school and at the age of sixteen became a student in the First Pennsylvania State Normal School, at Millersville. After two years of preparation in that school he taught two terms in rural schools, in the winters of 1885-86 and 1886-87. This was followed by a year in the Franklin and Marshall Academy, where he finished his preparation for college. He was graduated at Franklin and Marshall College with the degree of A. B., in 1892, and in 1895 received from the same institution the degree of A. M., on the basis of original work. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He began his library work in his Freshman year in college, when he was appointed an assistant in the Goethean Literary Society Library, an organization of college students. During his last two years in college he served as librarian of this library, when he recatalogued the collection of about 6,000 volumes. In March, 1892, three months before his graduation from college, he was appointed and began work as librarian's assistant in the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore City, Maryland, where he later served as assistant librarian from 1898 to 1904. Since Oct. 1, 1904, he has been the librarian of the Grand Rapids Public Library. In 1895 Mr. Ranck organized the publishing work of the Franklin and Marshall College Alumni Association and has been chairman of the publishing committee of this organization since that date. In this period he has edited, written, and published for the association some forty books, pamphlets and leaflets. The most important of this work is the Catalogue

Hosted by Google

of Officers and Students of Franklin and Marshall College, from 1787 to 1903, of which he was the editor, and the Franklin and Marshall College Obituary Record, which contains biographies of all the graduates of the college who have died. Nearly all of the biographical sketches appearing in this record were written by Mr. Ranck. On its establishment, in 1903, he became president of the Advisory Council of Alumni of Franklin and Marshall College, and has been president of this organization, which represents the alumni in the affairs of the college, ever since. In newspapers and magazines Mr. Ranck has published many papers on college education in general, and on Franklin and Marshall College in particular; also many papers and articles on library affairs and the out-of-doors. Since 1896 he has been a regular monthly contributor to the Library Journal. He is a life member of the American Library Association and since 1908 has been a member of the council of that organization, twice elected to that position. From 1915 to 1918 he has been a member of the executive board of the American Library Association. In this association he has served on many important special committees, as well as on standing committees. Of the special committees mention may be made of the committee to reorganize the association so as to provide regional representation in the council, on the relations of the library to the municipality, on library insurance, on the ventilation and lighting of library buildings, etc. He was chairman of the special committee of the National Municipal League to draft the library section of the proposed model city charter. He has also been a member for many years of the Pennsylvania Library Club, of the American Library Institute, and, since coming to Michigan, of the Michigan Library Association. Of the latter organization he was president from 1905 to 1907. Mr. Ranck holds membership in many learned societies, among which may be mentioned the American Historical Association, the Maryland Historical Society, the Lancaster County Historical Society, the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society (of which organization he has been elected an honorary life member), and of the Historical Society of Grand Rapids, of which he has been secretary since 1905, at the same time editing the publications of the society. He is also a member of the Bibliographical Society of America and a number of national organizations in the interest of sociology and science. Since coming to Michigan Mr. Ranck has spent his vacations chiefly in canoeing the rivers of the state, and in that way he has covered thousands of miles of the water courses of Michigan, from source to mouth, and has made a collection of photographs of Michigan waterways of unusual interest and value. Before coming to Michigan his vacations were usually spent in connection with the waterways in the eastern part of the country. Mr. Ranck has a summer home at Woodbrooke Farm, near Grand River, in Plainfield township, used chiefly for his recreation and the education of his children. As the result of this, however, he takes great interest in all agricultural and horticultural subjects. He is a life member of the Michigan State Horticultural Society and a member of the Michigan Potato Association. Since the United States entered the war Mr. Ranck has given considerable time to the work of libraries in connection with the war, and especially as a member of the Executive Board of the American Library Associa-

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Félix Ramirez

Hosted by Google

tion. Within a year this organization has raised over $1,700,000 in money, has erected over thirty library buildings and organized libraries in the large training camps, collected and purchased over forty million books, distributed over five million magazines, and is supplying reading matter to men in the service of our country everywhere in America and overseas. He has served for a limited period as librarian of the camp library at Camp Custer, and is due for similar service from time to time, either there or elsewhere, during the continuance of the war. He is state agent in Michigan for the American Library Association in its nation-wide campaign for books for soldiers and sailors. In Grand Rapids Mr. Ranck is a member of many organizations, among which may be mentioned the Grand Rapids Boat and Canoe club, and the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. On Oct. 15, 1901, he was married to Miss Judith Anne Blackburn, daughter of Edwin and Maria (Powell) Blackburn, of Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Ranck is a graduate of Wellesley College, 1897. They have three children: Elizabeth Powell, aged 15; Theodore Valentine, 12; and Wilson Marcy, 10, all of whom are attending public school in Grand Rapids. They reside at 728 Terrace avenue, S. E., with their summer home at Woodbrooke Farm.

Felix Raniville, for more than a quarter of a century prominently connected with the leather business of Michigan, entered upon his activities at Grand Rapids at a time when the community was beginning to emerge from the condition of a town and to reach out into the surrounding country with those instrumentalities of commerce which were to make her, within a comparatively short time, one of the prominent cities of the Middle West. The distance between the little business which he first started on Pearl street and the substantial house which is now being conducted by his heirs evidences the fact that between the time of his arrival, in 1875, and the date of his death, Dec. 2, 1902, Mr. Raniville traveled far. All honorable success, it has been proven, is based upon a definite aim in life and a persistent purpose which enables one to persevere in a given course regardless of difficulties. Success is measured not merely by the heights which one attains, but by the distance between the altitude which he has reached and the starting point of his career. Underlying and directing the more than average success of the late Felix Raniville was that far-sighted and reasonable thrift which characterizes the peasantry of France, and which, notwithstanding the glitter and color of those in high places prior to the time when the exigencies of the great European war made such things impossible, also obtained as a steadying current and by its very existence made possible that fascination which charmed and attracted the less volatile people of the world. Transferred to the United States, this same capacity for saving, for making little go far and for philosophically accepting conditions, no matter how difficult, have made of the transplanted Frenchman one of the most commendable and desirable of citizens. Felix Raniville was born at Saint Mary's, Province of Quebec, Canada, Oct. 18, 1836, a son of Dennis and Josephte (Patenaude) Raniville, natives of France. The parents, on coming to America, located in Canada, where they engaged in farming, and Felix Raniville grew up on the farm, in the midst of a large family, receiving his education in the public schools. As a

Hosted by Google

youth he was engaged in farming, but subsequently started teaching school and as a teacher went to Lowell, Mass. While he was there the Civil war broke out, and in 1863 he enlisted as a private in the Fifteenth Light Battery, Massachusetts Volunteers, with which organization he served until the close of the war, establishing an excellent record for bravery and fidelity. When the war closed he returned to Lowell and there learned the leather belting business with Josiah Gates, remaining in that gentleman's employ for some years. In the fall of 1875 he came to Grand Rapids, where he founded a small leather belting business on Pearl street. He was industrious, energetic and thrifty, and managed his affairs in such an able manner that he was, before long, obliged to seek larger quarters, and opened an establishment on old Canal street, where he continued to be engaged in a successful business until his death. Mr. Raniville was a Republican, but did not seek political honors, although he was always a good and public-spirited citizen and gave his support to good measures. He attended the Methodist Episcopal church, and was a popular comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Raniville was married, May 7, 1867, to Loova A., daughter of Samuel and Ulysse (Eastman) Child, of Lowell, Mass., the former a native of Barford, Canada, and the latter of Coventry, Vt. Mr. Child, who was a farmer by vocation in early life, came to Massachusetts when still a young man, and there, in his later years, followed carpentering and contracting. Both he and Mrs. Child are now deceased. Mrs. Raniville, who survives her husband and is the owner of the business which he developed, was born at Barford, Canada, and there educated in the public schools. She is the mother of two sons: Eugene Frederick and Francis Felix, who are carrying on their father's business under the same honorable policies that made him successful. The family home is at No. 446 Terrace avenue, S. E.

Jacob H. Rauschenburger.—As one of the most representative and oldest established undertakers of Grand Rapids, Jacob H. Rauschenburger belongs to that class of men in his line who have raised their calling to a profession and conduct their work scientifically and expertly. For the past eleven years he has been in business at his present address, 415 Scribner avenue, and during this time has seen a number of advances made in his art. The funeral director of modern times must possess many qualities, for he must not only be a thorough master of his difficult profession, but in order to gain the confidence and friendship so desirable among his clients he must possess infinite tact and a sympathetic manner. The undertaker is called into the family at times of the greatest grief, when ordinary duties are suspended, and there is necessity for kindly action as well as expert advice. Those who are possessed of these qualifications are the ones who are gratefully remembered by those whom death has brought into business relations, and among such none have a higher standing than has Mr. Rauschenburger. Jacob H. Rauschenburger was born at Ann Arbor, Mich., July 2, 1858, son of Thomas R. and Rosa (Katz) Rauschenburger. His father, who was an early business man of Ann Arbor, where for years he was successfully engaged in the manufacture of made-to-order furniture, died March 10, 1907, while his mother passed away Feb. 12, 1866. He has one brother, John R. Rauschen-

Hosted by Google

burger, of Manchester, Mich., and his only sister, Barbara, is the wife of Michael Grossman. The early education of Mr. Rauschenburger was secured in the public schools of Ann Arbor, and after his graduation in the high school he took up the trade of cabinet making. At the time he attained his majority he felt that Grand Rapids offered a broader field for his abilities, and accordingly, in 1879, he came to this city and secured employment with Nelson & Matter, with whom he remained for two years. He was then recalled to Ann Arbor, by his father, and for six years worked with the elder man in the manufacture of specially designed furniture, but the year 1887 saw his return to Grand Rapids and his subsequent entrance into the undertaking business in partnership with August Posner, under the firm style of Posner & Rauschenburger. The establishment of the firm was located at No. 14 North Front avenue, and the partners continued successfully together until 1889, when Mr. Posner died, at which time Mr. Rauschenburger succeeded to the ownership of the business, of which he has continued to be the proprietor. In 1907 Mr. Rauschenburger moved to larger and more modernly equipped quarters at No. 415 Scribner avenue. He is modern in every respect and is always looking to secure improvement or to take advantage of any new discovery in his calling. He owns his own automobiles, his establishment is equipped with all the latest appliances for the careful, scientific and reverent care of the dead, and his tastefully furnished chapel seats one hundred people. He belongs, with the members of his family, to St. John's German Lutheran church, where he is on the board of trustees, and as a citizen he is serving energetically and capably as a member of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of Grand Rapids. Politically he is a Democrat, while his fraternal connections include membership in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Independent Order of Forresters and the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Rauschenburger was married in 1886 to Miss Carrie Stein, of Adrian, Mich., and of this union have been born four children: Paul R. and Albert, who are partners with their father in the undertaking business and well known business men of the city; Alma, who resides with her parents, and Carl, who is a draughtsman in the motor works.

Edward G. Raymond.—The name of Edward G. Raymond has been for many years intimately associated with Grand Rapids history, and to him at least one of the city's towering business establishments owes much of its initial success and continued prosperity. His activities have been so well directed and his management of affairs so masterfully handled that he has been rated among the most able men of his day and community, and he has earned the confidence and gratitude of men of high standing with whom he has been associated. His success has been entirely due to his own ability and his advance to independence and high position has been steady and continuous. In the handling of accounts, in which he is an adept, he has been almost phenomenally successful, and his name still stands for some of the best work in this line that Grand Rapids has ever known. Mr. Raymond was born at Charlestown, Mass., May 26, 1843, son of Samuel and Emily Frances Raymond. Because of ill health, in 1853, the father took his family to North Andover, Mass., and there and at

Hosted by Google

Andover, Edward G. Raymond secured his early education in public and private schools, this being supplemented later by attendance at commercial schools of Boston His career at that time was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil war, and Aug. 19, 1862, the youth enlisted in Company G, Forty-fourth Massachusetts infantry, being mustered into the United States service, Sept. 12. His regiment went almost immediately to the front and soon was in the thickest of the conflict, participating in the engagements of Little Creek, Rawles Mills, Kingston, Whitehall and Little Washington, and the expeditions to Goldsboro, N. C., and Tarboro. In the last named Mr. Raymond received a severe wound which incapacitated him for further service and he received his honorable discharge and was mustered out, June 18, 1863. In the fall of that year he entered the service of the Suffolk Fire & Marine Insurance Company, of Boston, Mass., as an accountant, and remained with that concern until 1865, when he transferred his activities to Alexander Cochrane & Co., manufacturing chemists of Boston, with which firm he remained until 1869. He then went with Stearns, Clark & Co., of Erie, Pa., inventors and manufacturers of saw-mill machinery, in the capacity of assistant treasurer. He was married, May 5, 1870, to Miss H. Frances Abbott, of Andover, Mass., a former schoolmate, and they have one child, Mrs. Alice (Raymond) Ewing, of Grant, Mich. In the fall of 1870, forced to seek a change of climate because of ill health, Mr. Raymond came to Michigan, his first location being on the line of the Grand Rapids & Indianapolis railway, then in process of construction. He built and conducted stores on the present sites of the villages of Ashton and Leroy, Osceola county, and took contracts for construction work along the line of the railway, as well as a contract to stock with logs a sawmill at Ashton. This mill was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1872, causing a heavy loss to the owners and wiping out much of Mr. Raymond's hardly-won capital. In the fall of the same year Mr. Raymond became acquainted with the late Delos A. Blodgett, who was at that time residing at Hersey, Mich., and who, with others, persuaded him to make the race for county treasurer. He was elected at that time and for the three following terms, and at one election received every vote cast in the county for that office. In 1881 he received an urgent request from Governor Jerome to audit the books and accounts of the Michigan Reformatory at Ionia, and April 14 of that year was appointed secretary of the board of managers and clerk and purchasing agent of that institution. These positions he filled until Oct. 12, 1881, when he answered the call of the Northern National Bank of Big Rapids to become assistant cashier, a position which he retained until May, 1885, at which time he accepted the position of general office man and accountant with D. A. Blodgett & Company, of Grand Rapids. He remained in that capacity until 1904, when a limited partnership was formed and Mr. Raymond became a member of the firm. He was elected, Nov. 27, 1916, a director of the Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids, to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of John W. Blodgett, who had been elected a director of the Federal Reserve Bank at Chicago.

J. C. Reice.—The finding of a groove in life in which one's heart and mind are emphatically enlisted assures success to nine out of ten

Hosted by Google

of the toilers of earth. The farm is the largest and most beneficent camping ground for the survey of life's possibilities, for here the farmer is too busy to dream other than with eyes wide open and senses alert, while health is being engendered by muscular action, regular hours and wholesome diet. It has been among these fortunate and congenial surroundings that the career of J. C. Reice has been passed, and it has been his fortune to have accumulated a handsome competence and to have gained a substantial position among his fellows. Mr. Reice was born on an Ohio farm, Jan. 1, 1862, son of Jacob Reice. His father was an agriculturist, and when not attending the public school the youth was called upon to assist the elder man in the numerous duties incidental to the farmer of the Middle West during that period. At the time of attaining his majority he decided upon an independent career, and eventually came to Solon township, Kent county, where he has since remained in the enjoyment of a constantly-increasing prosperity. His home farm is a valuable property and in its appointments, improvement and fertility reflects credit upon its owner. Mr. Reice is a man affable by nature, and has gained and held many friendships in his community. In the time he has lived here his strict probity in business transactions has given him an excellent reputation, and his public spirit makes him known as a useful and valuable citizen. On a number of occasions his friends have endeavored to secure his permission to place his name on the ticket as a candidate for one or another township office, but he has always refused, having preferred to pass his life as a private citizen. Politically he is a strong adherent of Republican principles.

Cyrus Walker Rice commenced his professional career at Grand Rapids in the spring of 1910, and both as a lawyer and a citizen has earned a substantial and honorable reputation. Not alone by preference and training is he a lawyer, but by inheritance as well, for his father, the late Hon. William C. Rice, was one of the leading attorneys of Henderson county, Ill., during a long period, and judge of the county court for thirty-three years; and his maternal grandfather, the late Cyrus Walker, was also a prominent Illinois lawyer. Cyrus W. Rice was born at Oquawka, Henderson county, Illinois, May 19, 1861, a son of Judge William C. and Mary (Walker) Rice. Judge Rice was born in Kentucky, where he attended the public schools and also received academic training, and as a young man went to Illinois, where he studied law in the office of Cyrus Walker, whose daughter he later married. Judge Rice rose in practice, reputation and fortune, to become one of the foremost men of his profession practicing at the Henderson county bar, and during the long period of his incumbency as a judge his decisions were seldom reversed and he enjoyed the confidence of the bar and held in full measure the respect and esteem of the people. He was a Republican in politics and attended the Presbyterian church, of which he was a trustee, at Oquawka, where both he and Mrs. Rice passed away. Cyrus W. Rice attended the graded and high schools of Oquawka and Monmouth (Ill.) College, in which institution he was graduated in 1882 with the first honors of his class. Having expressed a predilection for the profession of law, he spent about three years in his father's office in study, and then entered the Union College of Law, at Chicago. During this time he

Hosted by Google

also devoted his spare time to study in the chambers of Hon. T. Lyle Dickey, judge of the Illinois Supreme Court, who, in former years, had studied under Cyrus Walker. Mr. Rice began practice at Peoria, Ill., with his cousin, James M. Rice, but in 1892 removed to Chicago, where he remained in the enjoyment of a good professional business until the spring of 1910, that time marking his advent at Grand Rapids. Upon the retirement of Arthur C. Denison, who had just been appointed judge of the United States District Court, Mr. Rice was admitted as a partner to the firm of Wilson, Wilson & Rice, an association which continued in existence for about two years. Since that time Mr. Rice has followed his calling alone, his practice being largely confined to matters pertaining to patent procedure. He has been admitted to practice in a number of United States district courts and the Courts of Appeals, where many of his important cases have met with favorable decisions. Mr. Rice maintains offices at 1208-10 Grand Rapids Savings building, where is to be found an interesting piece of office furniture, the chair which was in the office of his maternal grandfather, Cyrus Walker, three of whose students who used this chair having since become judges of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Mr. Rice is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in public affairs. His fraternal connection is with York lodge of the Masonic order, and he also belongs to the Association of Commerce and the O-wash-ta-nong club With his family, he belongs to Westminster Presbyterian church. Mr. Rice was married, Sept. 9, 1897, to Katherine, daughter of Robert V. and Mary (Maze) Sutherland, whose home was then at Chicago. Robert V. Sutherland removed from his native state of Ohio at an early day to Peru, Ill., where he married the daughter of Samuel P. Maze, a prominent citizen. Mr. Sutherland became one of the leading bankers of that community. Mr. and Mrs. Rice are the parents of two sons: William Cyrus and Robert V., both of whom are attending high school.

Henry J. Ringold.—In the death of Henry J. Ringold, which occurred June 28, 1915, the city of Grand Rapids lost a capable and public-spirited citizen and a business man who had been identified for a number of years with several of its prominent concerns. Mr. Ringold was widely known to the furniture trade, having traveled extensively on the road, and he bore an excellent reputation in business circles. He was born in the Netherlands, June 14, 1863, son of Gerard and Anna Ringold, natives of that country, where the father was a gardener. In 1865 the family came to the United States and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Sparta, Mich., where the parents rounded out honorable, industrious and well-filled lives, both now being deceased. Henry J. Ringold was educated in the public schools of Sparta and Grand Rapids and received his introduction to the furniture industry in a humble capacity, as a worker in factories. Through industry, fidelity and energy he gradually won promotion in the Phoenix Furniture Company and subsequently in the Berkey & Gay Company, and became one of the organizers of the Grand Rapids Cabinet Company, a concern with which he was connected for several years. He then started traveling on the road, first for C. P. Limheit, later with the Este Furniture Company and finally for the Rockford Furniture Company, after leaving which, in 1913, he retired from

Hosted by Google

active life. Mr. Ringold's contribution to the upbuilding of his adopted city included several store buildings on Union street, near Lyon, in addition to which he had considerable holdings in city realty, and he was proprietor of the Grand Rapids Caster Cup Company, the management of which was taken over by his widow at the time of his demise. Mr. Ringold was generally popular with the trade, had a wide acquaintance among prominent men in the furniture industry, and belonged to the Illinois Commercial Men's Association and the Michigan Knights of the Grip. He also held membership in the local lodges of the Elks, Knights of Pythias and Fraternal Order of Eagles, was a Republican in politics, and belonged to the First Presbyterian church. He was married, Aug. 30, 1893, to Carrie L. Thompson, who was born at Bellona, N. Y., Oct. 23, 1872, and educated at Allendale, Mich. Mrs. Ringold, who is a woman of many accomplishments and capable in business affairs, resides in a pleasant home at 600 Parkwood avenue, in which community she has many friends. She is a daughter of Richard G. and Mary A. (Wallon) Thompson, the former born at Seneca Falls, N. Y., and the latter on the Isle of Man, and both are deceased. Mr. Thompson, who was a farmer, came to Michigan in 1880, locating at Chelsea, and subsequently went to Allendale, where he was the owner of a good property. He continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits during the remainder of his life and was accounted one of the substantial and reliable citizens of his locality. He was a Democrat in politics, and belonged to the Masonic lodge. Mr. and Mrs. Ringold had three children: Harold J. T., Henry Russell and Donald Wallace, all residing with their mother.

Ritzema.—One of the old and honored families of Grand Rapids, which has resided here for nearly a half a century and which has witnessed and taken part in much of the business history of the city is that bearing the name of Ritzema. The founder of the business as well as of the family has passed to his final rest, but he is represented by his widow and children, and the reputation for sterling integrity, honesty of purpose, constant industry and good citizenship is reflected in and maintained by those who survive him. Jacob Ritzema, the first of this family to come to the United States, was born in the Netherlands and was a young married man when he came to America to seek his fortune. His first location was at Muskegon, Mich., where he settled in 1868, and for a time thereafter he was variously engaged, accepting such honorable and profitable employment as came his way. Later he changed his residence to Grand Rapids, where he found a good field for his activities in the draying business, and this he followed for a number of years. On March 2, 1881, however, he embarked in the grocery business, at the corner of Broadway and Leonard, S. W., a corner store. His sagacity and good business sense served to make this a success from the start, but in the second year of its life, 1882, it was found necessary to close the establishment and to quarantine the family because of the epidemic of small-pox which swept the city at that time and which centered about in the location of the store. By 1888 the business had grown to proportions that made it advisable that the owner have a building of his own, and he accordingly erected what is now known as the older

Hosted by Google

part of the establishment. This proved sufficiently large until 1911, when the new building was erected, and both buildings are now used, the new structure being three stories and basement, with an 83-foot front and a sixty-foot depth. Thirteen people are employed in this establishment, which since the early days has added shoes, drygoods and other articles to the original grocery department. Mrs. Ritzema, also a native of the Netherlands, survives her husband and owns and manages the business, being assisted by her children. In the family there are: Leonard J., manager of the grocery department; Richard M., manager of the shoe department; and Anna, who manages the drygoods department. Jennie died at the age of five years and William passed away when but three years of age. Leonard J. Ritzema was born at Grand Rapids, March 13, 1870, and his boyhood was spent at the old family residence on Janette street, while he secured his early education by attending the Union school. He was only eleven years of age when he began learning the business under the instruction of his father, and to this concern he has continued to give his undeviating attention. He is accounted one of the capable business men of his city, broad in his views, able in his judgments and sound in foresight and methods, and is continuing to make the oldest business in the old First ward also one of the best. In this effort he is ably assisted by his brother, Richard M., also a native of Grand Rapids and a product of the city schools. The brothers are Republicans, and while not office-seekers they are good citizens. They belong to the Broadway Christian Reformed church. Leonard J. Ritzema was married, Jan. 23, 1895, to Miss Lyda Hesselink, daughter of John Hesselink, of Osceola county, Michigan, and five children have come of this union, all born and educated in this city: Richard D., of Battery D, Sixth Provisional Regiment, Coast Artillery; Arthur J., of Battery B, Eighth Provisional Regiment, Coast Artillery; and three daughters—Marguerite, Jeannette and Helen, at home with their parents.

Miss Esther Robinson.—One of the families which is well known, honored and respected, both for the length of time it has lived in Kent county and for the many things accomplished by it is that bearing the name of Robinson. Members of this family have been identified for the most part with agriculture, but the name is not unknown to the professions and to business, while numerous public officials have borne it. A worthy representative of this name is found in the person of Miss Esther Robinson, of Solon township, whose life has been one of generosity, unselfishness and devotion, and than whom there is no one more beloved in the community. Miss Robinson was born on her father's farm in Solon township, Kent county, Michigan, daughter of Munson Robinson and a granddaughter of David Robinson. The latter was the original immigrant of the family in America, founding it here some time after the War of 1812, the first settlement being made in New York. It was in that state, March 20, 1820, that was born Munson Robinson. He grew up to be a youth of ambition and determination, and in the days when Michigan was still a wilderness he started out upon a journey which he felt would end in his fortune. It was necessary for him to cut trails through the forest in order to get to his destination in Solon township, where he had secured a government claim, but he proved a hardy and industrious workman

Hosted by Google

and at the time of his death was the owner of 400 acres of fine land, a large part of which was cleared. Some of this is now included in the farm of Miss Robinson, and some is included as a part of the large farm of his son, Sherman M. Munson Robinson was united in marriage with Miss Esther Clark, of Canada, and of this union were born five children: Mary Ann, James, Ella, Esther and Sherman M. Of these children, Esther, like her brothers and sisters, received country school educational advantages. She was brought up to place a proper value on the benefits of good housekeeping and the various arts of the home, and she devoted herself most assiduously to caring for the wants of her parents. She was thus engaged when called upon to perform a new duty. Her elder sister, Mary Ann, had married Albert E. French, a member of another old and honored family of this county, and who had been at one time a city official at Grand Rapids and later a farmer in Solon township. Mr. French died when still in the prime of life and he was soon followed in death by his wife, leaving their six children orphaned and homeless. Miss Robinson at once assumed charge of the children, and from that time on until they had reached maturity she showered upon them all the love and tenderness of a mother. They have grown to be worthy and substantial men and women and they feel an everlasting gratitude for the blessing of their aunt's great-heartedness in the time of their need. The children are: Munson, a farmer of Solon township, married Florence Shotwell; Otto is single and is conducting operations on his own farm in Solon township; Howard K. married Merrell Furgeson, daughter of John and Sina Furgeson, and has a son and a daughter, Howard K., Jr., and Margaret Elizabeth; Emily, wife of John Hess, a farmer of Solon township, has four children—Munson J., Leland, Otto and Elbert, the first two being in school; and Esther E. and Geraldine G. are attending the State Normal school. In the community in which she has made her home for so many years, Miss Robinson is greatly beloved. Possessed of sterling qualities of mind and heart, she has attracted people to her, and when she has made friends she has never lost them. Her life has been an example well worthy of emulation and its reward is found in the affection and reverence that is now hers.

Fred S. Robinson.—The profession of architecture undoubtedly offers a great future to those equipped by nature and study for this line of work. It demands, however, perhaps as thorough a technical knowledge as any other vocation in which a man may engage; but its rewards are commensurate with its difficulties. Those who go abroad to gaze in wonderment upon the pyramids of Egypt, or the well-preserved ruins of Rome, rarely stop to consider that in the United States there are to be found architectural achievements far outclassing those accomplished by the ancients, although they may take the somewhat prosaic proportions of a modern office building or the definite lines of a Twentieth century community. The modern construction ideas are of such a nature that all engaged in building lines not only have to know everything that the builders of ancient times drew upon, but be able to solve the problems of sanitation, progressive construction and fire-proof protection. It requires much more ability to rear a modern office building and render it safe

Hosted by Google

in every respect than it did to erect above the moldering bones of a Pharaoh the monuments which have challenged the ancients. Owing to the demand for modern methods along building lines at Grand Rapids, in recent years this city has been the field of operation for some brilliant men of this profession, and one who has attained something more than ordinary reputation and standing as an architect is Fred S. Robinson, junior member of the well-known firm of Campau & Robinson. Mr. Robinson is a native son of Grand Rapids and was born Nov. 8, 1870, his parents being William S. and Ann Maria (Marriott) Robinson, the former born at Lundy's Lane, Ontario, Canada, in 1834, and the latter in England, in 1838. There were four children in the family, Mr. Robinson's three brothers being: James G., a resident of Sturgis, Mich.; Alexander W., whose home is at Spokane, Wash., and Francis M., of Galesburg, Ill. Mr. Robinson received his education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, and practically all of his training for his profession was obtained here. He early developed remarkable ability and capacity for work, and after some noteworthy achievements as an independent architect he formed the present partnership with Mr. Campau. This firm has rapidly come to the forefront among architects of Grand Rapids and has to its credit the designing of a number of the larger office buildings of the city, as well as of numerous church edifices, public structures and innumerable residences. The greater part of Mr. Robinson's attention is devoted to the duties of his profession, but his important connections and energetic spirit have led him to identify himself with other business lines, and at present he is secretary-treasurer of the Grand Rapids Textile Machinery Company. In his profession he is recognized as a man of marked, even distinguished, talent, and in business circles his ability and his integrity combine to give him repute and to attract and hold the confidence and respect of his associates. He belongs to the Peninsular and O-wash-ta-nong clubs of Grand Rapids, and is a member of the board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal church. In September, 1895, Mr. Robinson was united in marriage with Miss Jean Harriet Reavely, who died in 1902, leaving a daughter, Margaret, born in August, 1898. In 1907 Mr. Robinson was again married, being united with Miss Julia E. Smith.

Sherman M. Robinson.—Among the honored citizens of Kent county whose lives have been devoted to agricultural pursuits must be noted Sherman M. Robinson, who owns and operates some 500 acres of land in his native township of Solon. He has made of his special field of industry an eminent success, his home farm of 120 acres, in section 20 is a model of neatness, fertility and attractiveness, and his course in life has ever been such as to gain for him the confidence and high regard of those with whom he has been brought into contact. Sherman M. Robinson was born on his father's farm in Solon township, Kent county, Michigan, April 25, 1868, son of Munson Robinson and a grandson of David Robinson, the original immigrant of the family, who came to this country shortly after the close of the War of 1812 and located in New York. In that state was born, March 20, 1820, Munson Robinson, who grew up an ambitious and adventurous youth, filled with an earnest desire to make something of himself in the world. Munson Robinson was one of

Hosted by Google

the early settlers of Michigan and when he came to Kent county was compelled to cut trails through the forest to get to his destination. Once his government claim was secured, he settled down to clearing and developing a farm, and at the time of his death he was owner of 400 acres of fine land, a large part of which was cleared and yielding big crops, and a portion of which now forms the large farm of his son, Sherman M. This sturdy and industrious pioneer settler of Kent county married Miss Esther Clark, of Canada, and of this union were born five children: Sarah A., James, Ella, Esther and Sherman M. Sherman M. Robinson secured his educational instruction at the Solon Center school, a district school not far from his father's home, although it would not be so considered by the youth of today. During his boyhood he spent a good part of the summer months in hard work in the fields and in this manner became thoroughly familiar with farming, which he had decided to make the business of his life. So industriously and untiringly has he worked and so well has he directed his labors that today he is owner of 500 acres of land in Solon township, of which 120 acres are included in the home place. Mr. Robinson has a splendid set of buildings, taking a just pride in the appearance of his estate, and he also has the latest machinery and equipment, appurtenances, implements and conveniences. He married Catherine Wilson, daughter of Bradley and Sarah Wilson, farming people of Solon township and early settlers of this community. There were ten children in the Wilson family: John; Lucy, wife of Warren Wilkins, a farmer of Solon township; Catherine; Nettie; Sadie, wife of Washington Easterday, a hotel proprietor at Grand Rapids; Eva, wife of John Verrand, a carpenter and builder at Grand Rapids; and Harvey, James, Arthur and Belle, all deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Robinson have been born seven children: Munson, Jr., a farmer of Solon township, who married Veta Robinson, daughter of Leman Robinson, of Ensley, Mich.; Clark, also a farmer of Solon township, who married Beatrice Bloomfield; Jeanette, who married Wesley Rau, of Solon township, a farmer, and has an infant child, Derald; Esther and Ula, who are deceased; and Margaret and Lela, who reside with their parents and attend school. Mr. Robinson has never held office in the township, nor has he had a desire to do so, being content to show his citizenship in supporting worth-while movements and giving his assistance to worthy objects. He is a popular member of the local order of Gleaners.

Truman Rodgers.—The successful handling of a farm of appreciable size in a community where competition is rife and high standards prevail pre-supposes the possession of a thorough knowledge of agricultural science, as well as of shrewd business ability. When these requisites are met in a man who is still in the prime of life and who has spent his entire career in the community in which he resides at present, the combination forms a winning and important one. In this connection interest is attached to Truman Rodgers, who is successfully engaged in farming in Solon township, in which part of Kent county he has lived for more than forty years. The Rodgers family is an old and respected one in this part of Michigan. John Rodgers, its founder here, and father of Truman Rodgers, was a native of New York State who came to Michigan in the early days

Hosted by Google

and found his first employment in the timber industry. That business was one of the main ones in the early days, when it was necessary to clear off the land before cultivation could begin, but with the coming in of the farms the industry gradually died and John Rodgers, like many others, turned his attention profitably to agriculture. The arduous and unending labor connected with putting the farms under cultivation after the timber was cleared away cannot be realized by the younger generation; it is known only to the older few who still remain with recollections of the past when the great commonwealth of Michigan was still in the throes of early development. It was on his father's farm in Solon township, Kent county, that Truman Rodgers was born, March 18, 1878. He attended the district school for his education, and while much of the hardest work had already been accomplished before he reached years where he was able to assist in the farm labor, there was still enough to be done to keep his time reasonably occupied. He grew up in an agricultural atmosphere, in agricultural surroundings and with agriculturists for his friends and acquaintances, so that it was but natural that he should adopt that vocation for his own when he reached years of maturity. He has had no reason to regret his choice, for he has found a full measure of prosperity in his achievements and has gained for himself reputation and standing. Mr. Rodgers married Miss Jane Grace and they reside in their pleasant home in section 28, Solon township, not far from the village of Cedar Springs. They have all the conveniences and comforts of life and are surrounded by a wide circle of sincere friends attracted to them by their genial and attractive manner. Mr. Rodgers is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He is a Republican, but not a politician.

Theodore B. Rogalewski.—An illustration of the awards attainable in property and character through a life of industry and probity is found in the career of Theodore B. Rogalewski, who is owner of a fine farm in Nelson township. When he first came to this country he was possessed of little save ambition and a desire for honorable employment, and with these as a basis has built up a substantial income and placed himself among the independent men of Kent county. Mr. Rogalewski was born in Prussia, Jan. 5, 1846, his parents being Albert and Mary (Besewski) Rogalewski. Mr. Rogalewski is the only member of his family to come to the United States, the others remaining in their native land, where for the most part they were farming people, a vocation which the father followed throughout his life. They had the following children: Frank, who is engaged in farming on the old home place in Prussia; Madeline Schemekowski, Anna Gruchal, Theodore B., and Agathe Vrobel, all deceased but the two last named. Theodore B. Rogalewski was educated in the public schools of his native country and as a youth was trained to agricultural pursuits, which he followed for some years in a small way. Conditions under which he worked, however, were not satisfactory and his outlook for the future was not promising, so he decided to change his residence to this side of the Atlantic, and accordingly, in 1873, arrived in the city of Milwaukee. His monetary capital was about exhausted by the time he reached the Cream City, but he still possessed the ability to work and soon found employment as a mem-

Hosted by Google

ber of the street department. This labor he gave up after a short time and went to Elmer's Mills, Allegan county, Michigan, where he was a woodsman, as he was also at Lower Center for about one year. In the meantime he had carefully saved his earnings, with the end in view of buying land and resuming the occupation of his youth, and this ambition was realized when he purchased twenty acres of timber land in Nelson township. He could not devote all of his own time to his farm at first, because it was necessary that he secure some working capital, and on occasion he would journey to neighboring farms and assist the owners in their work of stumping, clearing, etc. In fact that first year and the next he was pretty busily engaged in this way. Finally, however, he became more independent as to financial resources, and after harvesting several good crops he began to add to his acreage. He now has a cleared farm of eighty acres, upon which he has made numerous improvements, his buildings being substantial and attractive and his farming machinery and implements of the best. Mr. Rogalewski married Eva Homernak, and to them were born the following children: Joseph, engaged in farming on the home place; Albena, living at home with her father; Martha, who resides near Grand Rapids; Emma and Florrie, both residents of Milwaukee; Theodore, who is his father's assistant; John, who is the owner of a farm and follows other occupations also; and Frank, who is now in France with Company 55 of the Engineers Corps. Mrs. Rogalewski died, July 18, 1911. Mr. Rogalewski has been too busily engaged in working out his business independence to aspire to public position, but he has not neglected the duties of citizenship, having been connected with several movements promoted for the general welfare. He votes with the Democratic party. As a man of integrity who lives up to his engagements, business and otherwise, he has an excellent reputation in his locality. He is a member of the Catholic church.

Louis A. Roller, M. D.—Actuated by motives and impelled by forces which we cannot fully comprehend, individuals pursue their various ways in life, some attaining the heights and others walking in the valleys, and both paths are beset with many difficulties. However, it is worth while, for the encouragement of those whose advantages are limited and whose environment holds little that is inspiring, to tell the story of one who faced such a lack of opportunity and who, alone, found a way to climb the heights. Such a story is that of Dr. Louis A. Roller, recognized as one of the leading specialists in diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat in Michigan, and who for more than a quarter of a century has been engaged in practice at Grand Rapids. Dr. Roller was born in New York City, N. Y., Feb. 23, 1855, a son of William and Louise Roller. Beyond the fact that his parents were born in Germany, the father in 1822, he knows little of his family, for his mother died when he was a lad of seven years and almost immediately thereafter the father disappeared and was never again heard from. Thus, at a tender age, Dr. Roller was thrown upon his own resources and was forced to develop qualities of self reliance and initiative, which have since assisted him over the rough places of life. In how large a degree these were developed is shown in the fact that in spite of hardships of the most discouraging character he was able to work his way through school and college, to secure a thorough and

Hosted by Google

comprehensive training for his difficult profession, and to persevere in his determination to reach a high place in the ranks of medical men. He was a lad of eleven years of age when he came to Michigan, and the grammar and high schools of Greenville furnished him with his preliminary training. When he was still little more than a lad in years, although not in experience, he secured an appointment as teacher in the country schools, and for three winter terms followed this occupation, in the meantime working as a farm hand during the summer months. He saved his earnings carefully and never lost a chance to honestly add to his income, in the meantime employing such leisure as he could snatch from his working hours to gain some rudimentary knowledge of the science of medicine. Finally, he entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, where he remained for one year, and in 1879 became a student at the famous Rush Medical College, Chicago, where he completed the prescribed course and was duly graduated with his degree. Returning to Michigan, he established himself in a general practice at Edmore, where he was again called upon to face disadvantages caused by a lack of financial resources. However, his persistence pulled him through this period, and after practicing for nine years he decided to enter the field of special practice, to prepare for which he went to Detroit and became assistant to Dr. J. C. Lundy, a well known specialist in and authority upon diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. This experience was supplemented by post-graduate work at New York and a special course in the Chicago Polyclinic, and in the spring of 1891 Dr. Roller came to Grand Rapids, where he has since been engaged in a practice that has grown as greatly in importance as it has in size and emoluments. He is a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Health, with which he has been connected for nine years, two years as its president, and belongs to the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otology, and is a member and has served as president and secretary of the Academy of Medicine. Fraternally, the Doctor is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, in which order he is a past chancellor, and belongs to the Masons. He has always supported the Republican party in political matters, and his religious connection, shared by his family, is with the Baptist church. Dr. Roller was married, April 10, 1884, to Miss Carrie Gibbs, daughter of J. H. Gibbs, a lumberman of Edmore, Mich., and they have one daughter, Nellie Louise, who is the wife of Dr. Williams, of Grand Rapids.

Clyde L. Ross.—During the twenty-one years that Clyde L. Ross, cashier of the Commercial Savings Bank, has been identified with the financial life of Grand Rapids, he has proven his ability as a banker and his worth as a man. He entered upon his career in banking at the bottom of the ladder and has risen to his present important post through his own ability, fidelity and industry, and to prominence in connection with a number of the largest of the enterprises of the Furniture City. Mr. Ross was born at Baldwin, Mich., April 19, 1877, a son of Cassius M. C. and Frances H. (Taylor) Ross, the former a native of Milwaukee, Wis., and the latter of near Lockport, N. Y. Cassius M. C. Ross was one of the prominent men of his day in Lake

Hosted by Google

county, Michigan, and served as register of deeds and county poor superintendent, but died in 1879, when his career was most promising. He served as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war. Mrs. Ross still survives him as a resident of Grand Rapids, and makes her home with her daughter. She is a member of the Christian Science church. Clyde L. Ross has one sister: Florence A., who is the wife of William C. Hertz, of Grand Rapids. Clyde L. Ross attended the graded schools of Baldwin and Reed City, and was twelve years of age when he came to Grand Rapids, where he attended high school, this being supplemented by a commercial course in the Western Michigan College. He was a lad of ambition and industry and began his career by working in various business houses, including the Grand Ledge Chair Company, by which concern he was employed two years. Following this, he spent a like period on the farm of his uncle, Charles H. Chick, but agricultural life did not appeal to him and he returned to the city to enter the employ of Carter's Grocery, which was situated on the corner of Eighth and Scribner streets. In 1896 he was placed in charge of the factory of Alex Dodge, but after one year left that plant to gain his first experience in the financial field. This was as clerk and messenger with the Fifth National Bank of Grand Rapids, in the employ of which institution he rose from position to position, his industry and fidelity attracting attention, commendation and promotion, until, in 1907, he was made cashier. This position he was holding at the time of the consolidation, and when the new Commercial Savings Bank came into existence, in 1908, he was retained in the same capacity and has occupied the position to the present time. From time to time Mr. Ross has given the benefit of his financial experience and ability to other institutions, and is now connected with a number of the leading business houses of the city, having been treasurer of the Grand Rapids Credit Men's Association for five years, treasurer of the Grand Rapids Clearing House for three years, secretary of the Grand Rapids Custom Shirt Company, treasurer of the Grand Rapids Furniture Polish Company, and formerly for three years was treasurer of the Grand Rapids Realty Company, resigning from that position in 1917. A man of wide information along many lines, Mr. Ross keeps in touch with all that pertains to modern banking and finance. In Masonry he has reached the thirty-second Scottish Rite degree, and is a member of Valley City Blue Lodge No. 86, A. F. & A. M.; Grand Rapids Chapter No. 7, R. A. M.; Tyre Council, S. R. M.; DeWitt Clinton Consistory; and De Molai Commandery, K. T. He also belongs to Saladin Temple, A. A. O. N. M. S., and in 1914 was president of Arab Patrol, and belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. When he can find leisure from his manifold and important duties he is usually to be found engaged in some kind of sport, his chief recreation being trout fishing, of which he is inordinately fond. With Mrs. Ross, he belongs to the Congregational church. Mr. Ross was married, Jan. 24, 1900, to Miss Retha Pearl Hosken, daughter of John H. Hosken, of Grand Rapids, and they have one son, Armand Clyde, born Feb. 11, 1901.

Frank G. Row.—In the insurance field of Kent county, few men are better known than is Frank G. Row, who has built up a large business in this direction since locating at Grand Rapids, in 1905. Recog-

Hosted by Google

nized as a man of fine executive ability and directing power, in February, 1917, he was honored by the business men of Grand Rapids by election to the position of president of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, in which capacity he is contributing materially to the forces which are working for the continued progress and future prestige of the Furniture City. Mr. Row was born at Lansing, Mich., Nov. 11, 1866, a son of Samuel H. and Elizabeth (Wilson) Row. His father, who served in Company B, Twentieth Michigan infantry, in which he rose from private to the rank of captain, went to Lansing, Mich., at the close of the Civil war, and there, in the office of the Secretary of State, performed the duties that are now the work of the Insurance Commissioner of the United States government. In recognition of his capable and faithful services, in 1869, he was appointed the first insurance commissioner of Michigan, and discharged the duties of that office efficiently for fifteen years. His death occurred March 10, 1909, on his sixty-ninth birthday, at Lansing, where Mrs. Row still resides. Frank G. Row's education under instructors was confined to attendance in the public schools of Lansing, and these he attended only until he was fourteen years of age. At that time he became self-supporting as assistant in a drug store in his native city, and, applying himself assiduously to his duties, learned the business in its details and was registered under the first state pharmacy board of Michigan. The drug business continued to occupy his attention until July 1, 1885, but the same vocation which his father followed must have possessed an attraction for the family, for in the year mentioned Mr. Row went to Chicago and entered the old and well known insurance office of Fred S. James & Company, one of the first concerns on LaSalle street. For three years he received the best of training and experience in this office, and then became a traveling solicitor for the Springfield Fire & Marine Insurance Company of Massachusetts, with which old line concern he was identified for twenty-one years. On June 1, 1905, he came to Grand Rapids, where he formed a partnership with Mr. Grinnell in an agency that has since grown to be one of the largest and most important in the field, continuing to act as state agent for the Springfield company until 1911. In the line of his vocation, Mr. Row was coming constantly into contact with the leading business men of the city, with whom he became more fully acquainted as a member of the Association of Commerce. In this body he was a hard and continuous worker, giving freely of his time and abilities in the furtherance of its interests, and in February, 1917, came his election to the presidency of this organization. His administration thus far has been characterized by hard work on the part of the chief executive and the handling of much important business which has resulted beneficially to the body and therefore to the city. Mr. Row is a member and vestryman of Grace Episcopal church, and a member of the Highland and O-wash-ta-nong clubs. He was married, Nov. 25, 1891, to Miss Louise B. Cheney, of Lansing, Mich., and they have two children: F. Damon, who is engaged in the insurance business at Grand Rapids; and Rosina E., who reside with their parents.

William E. Rowe, M. D.—In professional circles of Grand Rapids the name of Dr. William E. Rowe is generally recognized as that

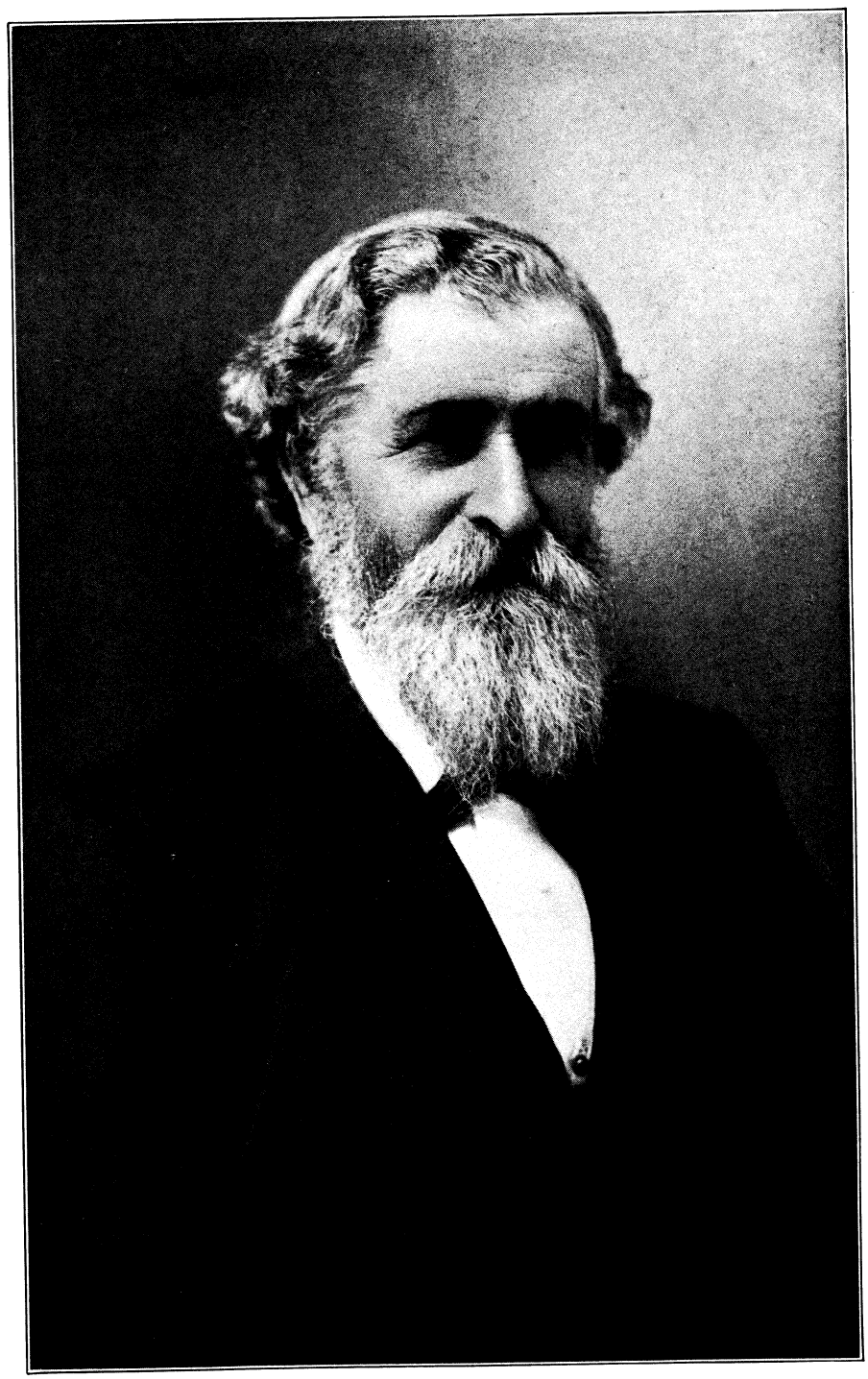
Hosted by Google

of one of the most skilled of the city's surgeons, a thorough master of his calling, whose achievements have placed him far above the plane of mediocrity. The son of a physician, he inherited much of his talent, and this has been developed to its full strength and usefulness by a thorough training, both in this country and abroad. Dr. Rowe's accomplishments in the broad field of surgery have been of the substantial rather than of the spectacular kind, but his success in numerous delicate and extremely difficult operations has stamped him as a man of sound ability and has brought him prestige and reputation in his honored calling. Dr. Rowe was born at Lawrence, Van Buren county, Michigan, May 18, 1858, son of Sylvanus and Helen P. (Carpenter (Rowe). Dr. Sylvanus Rowe was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical Institute, Cincinnati, Ohio, but the greater part of his career was passed in Michigan, and for many years he was the leading physician and surgeon of Lawrence, having a practice that extended to various other points in Van Buren county. Both he and Mrs. Rowe died at Lawrence. Dr. William E. Rowe attended the graded and high schools of his native place, and, early displaying a preference for medicine as the field in which to spend his life's activities, was sent, after some preliminary training under the preceptorship of his father, to the University of Michigan. He made a creditable record in college and was graduated with the class of 1879, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and at once returned to Lawrence, where he began to secure his first professional experience while associated in practice with his father. During eight years he had the benefit of the advice and counsel of the elder man, and at the end of this period felt competent to embark upon an independent career. Accordingly, in March of that year, he went to Allegan, Mich., where he established an office and began to minister to the needs of the people of that community. During more than twenty years he served that locality, winning the respect, admiration and friendship of a large and constantly growing practice, but, having given more and more thought, study and attention to surgery, in April, 1908, left the community where he had been located so long and went on a tour through Europe, attending surgical clinics in England and France. On his return he visited also the leading institutions in this country, and finally opened his office at Grand Rapids, in the Ashton building, where he has since continued. Almost immediately he became known as a careful, skilled and steady-handed surgeon, and his services came more and more into demand until he has now a large and important clientele. He is a member of the staff of Blodgett Hospital and consulting surgeon in obstetrics at St. Mary's Hospital, where he is also lecturer in the nurses' training department. His professional connections are with the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and he is also a fellow of the American Clinical Congress. To talents of an enviable character, he adds a cheerful personality that does much to irradiate the sick room. Dr. Rowe is a Mason, belonging to the Lodge and Chapter at Allegan, and the Council at Grand Rapids. He was married, July 19, 1887, to Emma H., daughter of Anson Rowe, of Allegan, Mich. Mrs. Rowe died without issue, May 18, 1916. Dr. Rowe was again married, June 20, 1917, to Alice Newport, a graduate of the U. B. A. training school for nurses.

Hosted by Google

George A. Rumsey.—One of the oldest native-born citizens of Grand Rapids, George A. Rumsey, now approaching his seventieth year, is still active in business pursuits, although practically the entire development of the Furniture City has taken place during his lifetime. He has watched its growth with the eye of a proprietor, has assisted in the advancement of many of its interests, and throughout his career has proven a good citizen who, while seeking his own betterment, has never been indifferent to the needs of his community. Mr. Rumsey was born at Grand Rapids, Dec. 26, 1848, a son of James A. and Cornelia L. (Stone) Rumsey, natives respectively of Newburgh and Ogdensburg, N. Y. His father came to the then new West in 1837, accompanied by Deacon Henry Stone, who subsequently became his father-in-law. In this connection it should be stated that they built a raft at Jackson and floated to Grand Rapids. The only highway at that time between Jackson and Grand Rapids was an Indian trail. Upon arriving at the Rapids, Mr. Rumsey, after going ashore, spent the last money he had (ten cents) for a bowl of mush and milk. Locating at Grand Rapids, he assisted in the construction of the old Sweet Mill, in which he subsequently worked for some time after its completion. Later he was employed in the J. W. Squier Mill, as a miller and cooper, and in the latter capacity constructed the first flour barrel ever made in Kent county. In 1842 he began working for Henry R. Williams, first mayor of Grand Rapids, with whom he remained for several years as an employe in his plaster mill, but eventually turned his attention to agricultural pursuits when he purchased 120 acres of land at Fuller Station. He continued as a farmer until 1855 and worked in plaster mills as a superintendent. In 1855 he bought what was known as the Red Mill on Silver Creek, a sawmill, which he reconstructed in 1860, and made into a plaster mill. He operated this enterprise until 1870, when he retired from active pursuits, although his death did not occur until March 16, 1906, when he was greatly advanced in years, being nearly ninety-two years of age. He was a Republican in politics but his only public service was as supervisor, in which office he served one term. Mrs. Rumsey died in November, 1905, in the faith of the Baptist church, of which she had been a lifelong member. There were five children in the family: George A.; James L., of Grand Rapids; Ellen M., wife of Harvey Wyman, of Bristol, Tenn.; Martha E., wife of O. C. Simonds, of Chicago; and Henry, who died at the age of four years. George A. Rumsey was educated in the early schools of Grand Rapids and spent much of his boyhood and youth on the farm on Grandville avenue, where he assisted his father in cultivating the fields and operating the plaster mill. When he left home, in 1870, he went to Big Rapids, where he purchased an interest in a machine shop and remained for four years, following which he returned to the parental roof. For one winter he worked at logging for Wyman & Buswell, near Sand Lake, and in 1880 went to Montcalm county, Michigan, and engaged in lumbering. In 1883 he became the founder of the Rumsey Lumber Company, near Paris, Mich., an enterprise which he conducted until 1887, in which year he went to Knoxville, Tenn., and engaged in the handling of lumber and timber lands. Mr. Rumsey returned to Grand Rapids, in 1893, and became superintendent of the

Hosted by Google



James A. Ramsey

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Mecosta Lumber Company, of Mecosta county. In 1900 he became superintendent of the Foster-Winchester Lumber Company, at Slocum's Grove, Muskegon county, and retained this position until the death of his father, since which time, 1906, he has been handling the elder man's estate. Mr. Rumsey is a director in the Grand Rapids Savings Bank and has numerous other business interests and connections. He has been greatly interested in the beautifying of the city, and for the past seven years has been a member of the Park Board, being also a director in the Park Board and Boulevard Association. Mr. Rumsey was married first to Miss Clara G., daughter of Samuel Winchester, of Grand Rapids, and she died in 1894, having been the mother of two children: James R., of Grand Rapids, and Elizabeth B., deceased. Mr. Rumsey's second marriage occurred June 20, 1900, when he was united with Mrs. Lillian N. Holmes, a native of Cazenovia, N. Y.

Edward Ryan.—Two vocations, hotel keeping and farming, have occupied the attention of Edward Ryan since he started upon his independent career, and the latter is now receiving his undivided interest. He has been a resident of Kent county all of his life, and at present his chief concern is the development of his valuable farm, located in Nelson township, near Sand Lake, a part of northern Kent county that is being rapidly developed into one of the fertile farming communities of this part of the state. Mr. Ryan still belongs to the younger generation of agriculturists, for he was born Sept. 10, 1884, his birthplace being Tyrone township, Kent county. James Ryan, his father, was a native of Canada and came to Michigan at an early date in the history of Kent county, settling in Tyrone township. In his native country he had learned the trade of blacksmith as a youth, and that vocation he followed for many years, or until about 1899, when he took up farming. He also operated a mill at Dutchman's Lake. He has continued as a tiller of the soil and his operations have been rewarded by a well-earned success, his present farm, in Nelson township, being a well-cultivated and valuable one. Mr. Ryan married Hattie, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Gorman) Gorman, of Kent county, and Edward is the only child born of this union. Edward Ryan was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and as a youth showed himself ambitious and industrious. He was reared to agricultural pursuits, but other matters attracted his attention and he accepted all honorable employment that presented itself and promised to be profitable. In this way he accumulated the necessary capital with which to purchase the hotel at Sand Lake, with which he was connected as proprietor for a period of fifteen years, and in the conduct of which he was entirely successful. However, opportunities in farming held out attractions that were not to be denied and he eventually disposed of his hotel property and bought his present farm of 315 acres in Nelson township, not far from Sand Lake. In the long time that Mr. Ryan has been located in this community he has become widely known, and those with whom he has been connected in business matters will testify to his industry, integrity and honorable dealing. It has been his fortune to have accumulated a handsome farm, upon which he has made improvements that raise it above the ordinary, and in its operation he has used intelligence and judgment, having

Hosted by Google

discriminated between methods that have shown merit and those that have been merely revolutionary without being beneficial. Naturally, he is progressive, and this fact has been shown in his support of movements which have been launched with the idea of contributing to the general advancement of Kent county and its people. Mr. Ryan is a member of Grand Rapids Lodge No. 48, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and is popular with his fellow lodge members. His political allegiance is given to the Democratic party, although he is not an office seeker nor a politician. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Ryan was Lula, daughter of William Seafure, a contractor and builder of Sand Lake. They have one son, Edward, Jr., born July 1, 1916.

James Samuels.—As in other lines of work, in the professions, in business, in all of life's avenues and activities, much specializing is being done today in agriculture. Instead of endeavoring to make an equal success of the various branches of farming, many of the more progressive men of Kent county have found it prolific of greater profit to give the greater part of their attention to some one special life; to concentrate their energies thereon. In the list of men of Kent county who thus specialize is found James Samuels. Mr. Samuels' special line is dairying, a field in which he has worked out an admirable success through industry, natural ability and a thorough knowledge of his business, his Solon township property being one upon which he has accomplished good results. Mr. Samuels was born May 20, 1860, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania. He was reared on his father's farm and received his education in the district schools, and when he was ready to start upon his own career chose farming as his vocation. In his native state, or that portion from which he came, the business of dairying is carried on much more extensively than in many other parts of the country, and Mr. Samuels was well instructed in this branch of agriculture. For some years he carried on this business in Pennsylvania, but about the year 1902 or 1903 he disposed of his holdings in the Keystone State and came to Michigan, where he settled on a farm in Solon township. Mr. Samuels' location is a fortunate one, as the village of Cedar Springs is located near his property and the creamery there furnishes a splendid market for the product of his large herd of cattle. He has made a decided success of his business and at the same time has won a firmly established position in the confidence and respect of his associates who have found him to be a man of integrity and sound practicality. He has not mixed in public affairs as an office seeker, but votes the Republican ticket and supports all public-spirited movements. Mr. Samuels married Mary Richards, of Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and they became the parents of two children: Peter and Rachel, the latter of whom was born in Kent county and the former in Pennsylvania.

Merritt Sayles.—Foremost among the qualities which have made the life of Merritt Sayles of practical use to his fellow-men are courage and faithfulness, evidenced in many ways, particularly in his military service as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war. In the village of Lowell, of which he is now a retired resident, indebtedness is felt for his excellent management of the rural mail

Hosted by Google

route of his locality, where he has been carrier for the past nine years. Mr. Sayles is a product of the farming community of Ionia county, Michigan, where he was born, June 22, 1846, son of Chapin C. and Eliza (Gardner) Sayles. His father was born in the State of New York, June 20, 1812, and in young manhood was engaged in farming in his native locality, but in 1844 turned his face toward the West and, June 10 of that year, arrived in Ionia county. Here he took up uncleared land at ten shillings per acre, erected a small log cabin and began life among the pioneers of the region. A hard-working and industrious man, he succeeded in clearing his land and developing it into a good farm, and he spent the remainder of his career in agricultural pursuits, being able in his declinining years to enjoy the rest and comforts of retirement. He was a Republican in politics and an active worker in the ranks of his party, but rather in behalf of his friends than from any thought of personal reward. His family at one time was considered one of the most remarkable in the state, for as there were fifteen children, there were seventeen able-bodied men and women in the one family. Five of his sons enlisted in the Union army in the Civil war and all withstood the rigors and hardships of the southern battlefields and returned safely to their home. Since then the members of the family have scattered to various communities, but wherever found they have always been honorable and useful citizens, reflecting credit upon their name and their training. Merritt Sayles, the seventh in order of birth of his parents' children, divided his boyhood between attending the district schools and assisting his father with the work on the home farm. He was little more than a lad when he donned the uniform of his country and marched away to fight the battles of the Union, but the records show that he proved a courageous and at all times a faithful soldier and that he conducted himself in a way to win the admiration of his comrades and the respect of his officers. He was promoted to the rank of corporal before receiving his honorable discharge, and when his military service was over he returned to Ionia county, where he again took up farming. For a time he was a renter, but eventually engaged in farming on his own account, continuing to be so engaged until he retired from active affairs and moved to the edge of Lowell, his present home. For nine years he has been engaged in carrying the mail, and few of the old-time residents are better known in the locality or more highly esteemed. He has always been an adherent of the principles of the Republican party and has worked actively in political campaigns for the candidates of that organization. Mr. Sayles was married, Dec. 16, 1866, to Mary Etta, daughter of William M. and Sarah J. Andrews, the former a native of New York State and the latter of Canada. Three children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Sayles: Ada, wife of C. D. Miller, of Lowell, has two children—Merritt and Maurice; Phebe, deceased, was the wife of George Severy and had one son—Luther; and Elba is the wife of Fred Pinckney and has had four children—Carlyle, deceased, Phebe, Tilden T. and Elaine.

John H. Schouten.—The satisfying rewards that are attainable in character, influence and position through a life of industry and integrity are illustrated in the career of John H. Schouten, secretary

Hosted by Google

of the Michigan Trust Company of Grand Rapids. With no extraordinary endowment of faculty, with only the education that comes from the public schools, and unaided by inheritance or friendly support, he was content to enter into the life which a rising community offered in a humble capacity and to follow up the opportunities that opened before him with steadiness and industry, gaining, step by step, the rare fruits of well-directed enterprise until he finds himself, while yet his powers are only ripened and matured, the possessor of a substantial position and a trusted repository of important interests. Mr. Schouten was born in Ottawa county, Michigan, July 15, 1869, son of Dr. Roelof A. and Gysberth (Winholt) Schouten. From Ottawa county the family moved to Grand Rapids, in 1872, but subsequently Dr. Schouten moved with Mrs. Schouten to Holland, Mich., and there continued to practice medicine and surgery until his death, in 1913. John H. Schouten received his education in the public schools of Holland, Mich., and Grand Rapids, and early displayed the possession of industry and ambition by securing, while yet in his 'teens, a position in a shoe store as clerk. Subsequently he was attracted to railroad life, not in the train service, but as a clerk, and for several years was in the employ of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad and later the Pere Marquette railway. After ten years of experience of this nature, he identified himself with the firm of Fuller & Rice, and about the month of December, 1900, left this firm to enter the Michigan Trust Company, which institution had made him an attractive offer for his services in its bookkeeping department. Gradually, as the worth of his labors became recognized and appreciated, Mr. Schouten advanced in position until he became assistant secretary, and in 1916 he was elected to the secretaryship, which he now holds. He is credited with having an excellent knowledge of financial and business matters and as a master of routine work, while his associates place every confidence in his judgment and acumen. He is identified variously with the life of the city, has taken part in a number of movements for civic betterment, and is a member of the Association of Commerce and the Peninsular Club. Mr. Schouten was married, Oct. 3, 1899, to Grace L. Buss, daughter of Henry L. Buss, of Grand Rapids.

David C. Scribner.—Perhaps no name in Kent county deserves more honorable mention than that of Scribner, standing as it does for unusual enterprise and for worthy effort. It is one of the old landmark names that for eighty-one years has represented elemental strength, steady progress and practical achievement. At Grand Rapids interest centers in its leading representative today, David C. Scribner, who is president of the Grand Rapids Wood Finishing Company. He is the youngest of a family of thirteen children born to James Scribner and his wife, Eliza Scribner, who came to Kent county in March, 1837. They were people of mature judgment at that time, born respectively in 1801 and 1807, in New York City, and they had come to Detroit, Mich., in 1836, with the intention of being permanent settlers and home-builders in this state. James Scribner was a merchant and real estate dealer, and when he came to this section he brought enough capital with him to enable him to purchase large tracts of land in Sparta and Alpine townships. He established

Hosted by Google

his home in what is now the west side of the city of Grand Rapids and in improving and developing his property, for he was a man of much energy, he saw the advantages that would accrue through the bridging of the beautiful river that separated one arable section of land from another. It was in his fertile brain that the first bridge across the Grand river was conceived and it was through the skill of his hands that it was built, and so well was the task accomplished and so sound was the structure, that the state was glad to acquire ownership of it at a later date. This was by no means the only example of his enterprise and public spirit. He was one of the early progressive men who recognized the value of the adjacent water power, which, although not so profitably harnessed as at present, even in his day began to be made use of and he became interested and concerned in manufacturing plants and was the founder of the first salt works at Grand Rapids. He was at one time the heaviest real estate holder on the west side of the river; in fact, his holdings in the city were greater than those of any other man, at one time owning as much as 6,000 acres in Grand Rapids and vicinity. It is not surprising that railroad building in this section received his hearty support and co-operation. He was one of the first directors of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railway. To the end of his life, which was prolonged to Oct. 2, 1861, he was felt to be a man in whom confidence could be placed, and one whose devotion to the best interests of the state to which he had come coincident with its birth, was many times practically manifested. He was a consistent member of St. Mark's Episcopal church at Grand Rapids and was faithful to his obligations in the Masonic fraternity. His widow survived until Dec. 29, 1898. They were the parents of the following children: Hail C., who died while serving as a soldier in the Civil war, and James L., Stephen R., Charles H., Nestelle B., William R., David C., Margaret A. Pew, deceased; Mrs. Eliza J. Sawyer, of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Sarah M. Stevens, deceased; Mrs. Belle S. Temple, of Grand Rapids, and two that were born in New York and died in infancy. David C. is the only surviving male member of the family.

L. M. Sellers—For nearly a half a century L. M. Sellers has been the owner and editor of the Cedar Springs Clipper, a publication which was founded by him and of which he has been the only proprietor. During this long period of time Mr. Sellers has been one of the energetic and influential men of his community, a factor in public and political affairs, a supporter of beneficial movements both personally and through the columns of his newspaper and a worker generally for what his judgment tells him is best for the village which he adopted as his home forty-nine years ago. Mr. Sellers was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, and in his native community received his education in the public schools. His early training included three years of the printing business, although when he first came to Michigan, in 1869, and located at Cedar Springs, his first work consisted of sawing logs and packing shingles. He made furniture evenings for his printing office, and, in a modest way, the Cedar Springs Clipper came into being. Like other enterprises of its kind, its early years were marked with vicissitudes too numerous to mention, but the proprietor, displaying the energy, faith and determina-

Hosted by Google

tion that have always been characteristic of him, worked along untiringly and unflinchingly, meeting every obstacle cheerfully and fighting every discouragement energetically. As a result, his publication is today accounted one of the leading weeklies of Kent county, having a large subscription, not only in Kent, but in the adjoining counties, among the best and most representative class of people. As one of the reliable sheets of the county (a reputation which has been carefully built up and guarded carefully), the Clipper wields no inconsiderable influence in the molding of public opinion and it is fortunate that it is in such safe and trustworthy hands. Its matter is clean and timely and it is receiving good support at the hands of the advertising public. Mr. Sellers owns the building at Main and Beech streets, in which the plant is situated, and a modern newspaper office, fully equipped, and a job printing department are several of the features. Mr. Sellers is a good business man, having interests in a number of profitable enterprises, and in this connection seems to combine the best qualities of his Irish and Scotch ancestry. For many years he has been a prominent figure in the ranks of the Republican party, having been a hard worker and a delegate to the national convention of his party in 1892, and he has served two terms as a member of the state legislature. President McKinley appointed him postmaster without any request on the recipient's part for this honor, and for sixteen years he served Cedar Springs capably in this position, resigning when his last term still had two years to run. Mr. Sellers is a supporter of education and religion. He has never married.

Archer H. Shank.—During the five years of his incumbency as secretary of the Builders' & Traders' Exchange, Archer H. Shank has won distinctive prestige in an organization which has been one of the prime factors in the solidifying and advancement of the building interests of Grand Rapids. He is a man of firm convictions and settled purpose, who is practical in his aims, and has been effective in the realization of those projects which are advanced by good citizens of modern tendencies. Mr. Shank was born at Salem, Va., Dec. 4, 1879, a son of Peter A. and Ida J. (Strickler) Shank. He secured excellent educational advantages in his youth, attending the grammar and high schools of Salem and Hampden-Sidney college, and then spent two years in Roanoke college, at Salem, and one year in Washington and Lee University, at Lexington, Va. Coming to Grand Rapids, Oct. 19, 1902, he was first identified with the Voigt Milling Company for two years, and then was with the Pere Marquette railway and later the Grand Rapids & Indiana railway, acting in various capacities. On Sept. 15, 1913, he was elected secretary of the Builders' & Traders' Exchange of Grand Rapids, and has since continued to efficiently discharge the duties of that position. Mr. Shank has for a number of years been identified with movements and organizations which have had as their object the building up of the city, its institutions and its industries. He is a member of the Association of Commerce and of the Greater Grand Rapids Association and his practical suggestions, progressive ideas and energetic work have assisted materially in the success of these bodies. As a Mason, he is past master of Doric Lodge No. 342, F. & A. M., and a member of Co-

Hosted by Google

lumbia Chapter and the Council. He belongs to the First Presbyterian church and for the past ten years has served as trustee. Mr. Shank was married, June 3, 1903, to Miss Cora Brown, of Port Huron, Mich., and they have one child, Leonidas, who is attending the public schools. The Builders' & Traders' Exchange of Grand Rapids was organized Oct. 14, 1885, at which time its officers were: G. H. Davidson, president; J. H. Hosken, vice-president; J. D. Boland, recording secretary; C. W. Davidson, corresponding secretary, and L. C. Davidson, treasurer. Its reorganization was effected April 1, 1911, at which time it was incorporated, and S. A. Morman served as president of the body during the next six months, G. C. Schroeder then occupying the chief executive office for three years. He was succeeded by C. M. Emmerson, who was president for one year, and Glendon A. Richards took office Jan. 1, 1916, and still retains the position. From the time of the reorganization, Guy Martin was secretary until Sept. 15, 1913, when Mr. Shank went into office. L. P. Oltman is now vice-president, C. G. Kuenner, treasurer, and C. L. Leonard, assistant secretary. Francis D. Campau is advising counsel and the directing board consists of the following well-known business men: T. J. Beyne, R. H. Haven, W. C. Hopson, C. G. Kuennen, Francis Letellier, L. P. Oltman, Edwin Owen, Glendon A. Richards and LeRoy Spears. At the present time the Builders' & Traders' Exchange has a membership of 209. Four people are employed in the exchange proper, and the office and exhibition rooms, which have been occupied since Jan. 1, 1914, are located on the ground floor of the Association of Commerce building. This is an organization made up of, and is the recognized medium of organization for contractors in all lines of building construction, from the breaking of the ground and excavation for cellars and foundations to the last finishing touches prior to occupancy of the building, and of firms and individuals who sell the contractor his building material of all sorts, as well as those concerns or individuals who handle and sell, or install, equipment of any sort, or who are interested, either directly or indirectly, in the building or equipping of buildings of all descriptions. Its membership also includes those engaged in selling the contractor his surety bonds or employer's liability insurance, as well as those who sell him his tools, machinery, etc. It is an organization not for profit, for every dollar received is expended for benefits of one kind or another to its members, having for its object primarily the encouragement and protection of the building interests of the city, and to provide and regulate suitable rooms and offices for its members for facilitating the transaction of their business. It stands for the highest things in the building business, whether it be through the contractor, the material supply man, the architect or the owner, and through its social features is accomplishing much that is good for the city and contributing to its progress. The exchange belongs to the National Association of Builders' Exchanges of the United States and to the Associated Builders' Exchanges of Michigan.

Arthur F. Shaw.—Young and energetic, forceful and well favored, Arthur F. Shaw is another of the young lawyers of Grand Rapids whose quick rise to prominence proves an example of the good results which obtain when natural gifts are combined with thorough

Hosted by Google

training and hard, energetic work. He has been engaged in practice in the Furniture City since 1909 and is now in the enjoyment of a large and important clientele as a member of the firm of Nichols & Shaw. Mr. Shaw was born at Grand Rapids, Sept. 29, 1884. He is a son of Solomon B. and Etta E. (Sadler) Shaw, the former born near Crown Point, Ind., and the latter at Sturgis, Mich. Solomon B. Shaw was an evangelist of the Methodist Episcopal church when he came to Grand Rapids, in 1883, but in 1891 he turned his attention to the publishing business, which he followed here for seven years. At that time he went to Chicago and followed the same line of endeavor, and in 1908 returned to Grand Rapids, where he has since lived in retirement. He is a member of the National Evangelists' Association and the Michigan Evangelists' Association. Mrs. Shaw is a lecturer of the Women's Christian Temperance Union and has been national evangelist in that organization for a number of years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shaw are devout members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have been the parents of nine children, as follows: Roland W., who was employed in a bank at Phoenix, Ariz., at the time of the outbreak of the Mexican border trouble, when he became captain in the First Arizona infantry, and is now stationed at Camp Kearney, California, with Company F, One Hundred Fifty-eighth infantry; Arthur F.; Elton R., who is a teacher of oratory in the Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, Kas.; Mark R., who is a student at the Boston (Mass.) Theological Seminary; Laura V., who is a teacher of oratory at the Illinois Women's College, Jacksonville, Ill.; Jay J., who is an aviator with the One Hundred Twenty-third aero squadron; and Ida Grace, Edith M. and Samuel B., who are attending the graded schools. Arthur F. Shaw attended the graded schools of Grand Rapids and a Chicago high school, having been taken to the latter city when he was fourteen years of age, and he was then given further training in private schools, this preparing him for entrance in the Ohio Wesleyan University, in which he was graduated in 1906, with the degree of Bachelor of Science. He next attended the Cincinnati Law School, being graduated with the class of 1908, and he took a post-graduate course at the University of Chicago Law School. For three years while attending the Cincinnati Law School he was a teacher in the Ohio Military Institute. Later he taught mathematics and military tactics in the Culver Military Academy, but in 1909 commenced the practice of law at Grand Rapids, and in 1911 formed a partnership with George E. Nichols, their office now being at No. 501 Grand Rapids Savings Bank building. The firm carries on a general business and has a large clientele. Mr. Shaw is a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, a member of the Lodge, Chapter, Council and Consistory of Masonry and of the Subordinate Lodge and Encampment of the Odd Fellows. He is a communicant of the Methodist Episcopal church, which he attends as a member of the Benton Heights congregation. He was married June 29, 1910, to Josephine, daughter of John and Sadie (Collins) Moore, of Grand Rapids, and they have two children—Mildred Madeline and Collins M. On Aug. 27, 1917, Mr. Shaw entered the second officers' training camp at Fort Sheridan, Ill. He was commissioned a first lieutenant on Nov. 27, 1917, and was ordered to duty with the Eightieth division

Hosted by Google

at Camp Lee, Va. He is now assigned to Company K, Three Hundred and Seventeenth infantry.

Abraham J. Shellman.—Engaged in business at Grand Rapids for nearly thirty years, Abraham J. Shellman has the distinction of being the pioneer optometrist of the city. Prior to entering upon this line of endeavor his activities had carried him into a variety of pursuits, and while his energetic nature and sound ability had given him partial prosperity in his former enterprises, it was not until he established his present venture at Grand Rapids that he really entered upon his career and placed himself in a position to gain a full measure of success. As a veteran business man he has shared in the advancement and progress made here during the past three decades and his standing in commercial and manufacturing circles rests upon an honorable participation in the competition that the later years have brought. Mr. Shellman was born in Allegan county, Michigan, Feb. 4, 1851, a son of Abraham and Mary Ann (Shellman) Shellman, natives of the State of New York, both of whom are deceased. His father, who came to Michigan in 1835, was a farmer in Allegan county, and there Abraham J. Shellman was reared amid agricultural surroundings, securing his early education in the district schools. This was supplemented by a course in Bryant & Stratton's Business College, Chicago, and with the intention of pursuing a professsional career, Mr. Shellman studied law for a time at Martin, Mich. Later he gave up his law studies to engage in farming on the home place in Allegan county, but again left the farm, to enter mercantile lines. In 1888 he came to Grand Rapids, and, having taken a course in optometry, he engaged in the optical goods business as a manufacturer, being the first in this line to begin business in the city. He has since built up a large trade, both wholesale and retail, and ships his goods to numerous far-distant points. Mr. Shellman is a business man of ability and a master of his profession. He is independent in his political views and is fraternally a Mason. Prior to her marriage, Mrs. Shellman was Miss Harriet A. Scott, of Hutchinson, Kas. They have a son, Ernest A., a successful business man of Grand Rapids, associated with his father.

Horace D. Shields.—No individual is placed in an important official position with a large and reliable concern without having earned such a promotion. To properly discharge the duties of an executive office requires certain traits of character, unusual capabilities and the power to sway others and direct their actions. Every man is not fitted for such a task; many are developed for such work through successive promotions, while others are born with the power to lead their associates. Of the men of Grand Rapids who are now holding offices of importance in large concerns, one who has fairly won the position which he occupies is Horace D. Shields, treasurer of the Sherwood Hall Company. Mr. Shields came to this concern thirty years ago, taking a minor clerkship, and has since steadily advanced until he is now one of the guiding spirits in this large enterprise. Horace D. Shields was born at Fairfield, Pa., Dec. 17, 1868, son of Maxwell P. and Susan (Musselman) Shields. His parents came to the West about the year 1880 and settled in Allegan county, Michigan, where the father combined the two occupations of agriculture

Hosted by Google

and merchandise, being the operator of a farm and the proprietor of a general store. Maxwell P. Shields died in Allegan county, and subsequently his widow came to Grand Rapids, where she passed away at her home at Wyoming Park. Horace D. Shields commenced his education in Pennsylvania, subsequently went to a district school in Allegan county, and completed his studies at Wayland (Mich.) High School. As a youth of eighteen years, in 1886, he came to Grand Rapids and for one year was employed in the service of the Pere Marquette and Michigan Central railways, but in 1887 he accepted the post of assistant bookkeeper with the firm of Brown, Hall & Company, a concern dealing in buggies, wagons, harness, etc., which had been established in 1865. Mr. Shields was ambitious and enterprising, industrious and loyal, and soon showed capability that warranted his promotion to better positions. He gradually rose in the concern, and when the business was incorporated as the Sherwood Hall Company, Aug. 1, 1902, he took the posts of secretary and treasurer. Later the secretaryship was turned over to Clyde E. Brown, Sherwood Hall being president of this $60,000 corporation. The company deals in saddlers' hardware, harness supplies, automobile supplies, etc., with its market covering a wide stretch of territory, and about thirty people are employed. Mr. Shields is an astute business man, with a knowledge of the field which his company's business covers that could have been gained only through thirty years of close observation. He is widely known to the trade and is considered an authority upon many matters pertaining to this line of commercial effort. He holds membership in the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce, is a Mason of high stand and a Pythian Knight, and in politics supports the Republican party. With his family, he belongs to the Westminster Presbyterian church. Mr. Shields was married June 24, 1909, to Miss Gladys Doty, daughter of A. H. Doty, an agriculturist of Cascade township, Kent county, and of this union have come three children—Paul, Howard and Lyman.

A. H. Simpson, secretary of the Grand Rapids Wood Finishing Company, is one of the leading business citizens of Grand Rapids, where his name is inseparably connected with commercial and manufacturing interests. His thorough American spirit and his great energy have enabled him to mount from a modest place in business affairs to one of standing and importance. Mr. Simpson was born at Grass Lake, Jackson county, Michigan, Dec. 30, 1869, and received his education in the public schools of that place, where his first position was that of deputy in the postoffice. He was about nineteen years of age when he came to Grand Rapids. After about one year he entered the service of the G. R. & I. railroad and for eight years was employed as a clerk in the general freight offices, later becoming maintenance-of-way clerk in the city offices. In 1901 he went to Fort Wayne, for the same company, but after four years, in 1905, returned to Grand Rapids to become identified with the Grand Rapids Wood Finishing Company, in the capacity of secretary. This concern had been founded under the style of the Grand Rapids Paint & Color Company, in 1894, by John G. Carroll and D. C. Scribner, manufacturing paints, colors and fillers, with a plant at No. 51 North Market street. On Jan. 17, 1903, the style was changed to Grand Rapids

Hosted by Google

Wood Finishing Company and was incorporated for $20,000, the officers being B. J. Reynolds, president; S. M. Van Namee, vice-president; and D. C. Scribner, secretary and treasurer. At that time the concern was still a modest and unassuming one, employing five or six people, but the spirit and capability were there in sufficient force to push it forward in the face of brisk competition, and by 1904 it was found necessary to seek larger quarters to meet the constantly increasing demand for the company's product. Accordingly, a new location was found at 61-71 Ellsworth avenue, the present address, and a substantial building was erected. At the same time a reorganization of the company occurred, with a capital of $30,000 and the following officials: D. C. Scribner, president and treasurer; S. M. Van Namee, vice-president, and A. H. Simpson, secretary. The new building, which had been thought sufficiently large for some time to come, was found inadequate for the necessary increased production, and in 1907 additions were erected. In 1915 the capacity of the plant was doubled and the buildings now cover a floor space of 150x100 feet, being three stories in height. In October, 1915, a reincorporation was effected, with $140,000 common stock, and no preferred. About thirty people are employed in the modern, sanitary plant, where the latest machinery has been installed, and five traveling salesmen are constantly on the road, their territory being everywhere east of the Rocky Mountains. The concern is now the largest in the world in the exclusive manufacture of all kinds of wood filling materials, and its product is known and finds a ready market wherever there are discriminating users of these articles. During the past thirteen years there has been no change in the organization, and this long experience together has allowed the officials to perfect a working organization that for efficiency and expediency in labor is hard to equal. Mr. Simpson, a man of superior ability and knowledge in his field of endeavor, has been an integral force in developing the company's usefulness and has the full confidence of his associates and others in the business world with whom he has come into contact. He is independent in his political views, acknowledging no connection with any party. He belongs to Doric Lodge and the Chapter and Consistory of Masonry and to the Shrine, and is a Woodman. He likewise holds membership in the Rotary, Peninsular and Grand View Automobile clubs. While he has not been an office holder, he has shown an interest in civic affairs and as a good citizen has contributed his share of work, material and moral, to the development and furthering of beneficial enterprises and institutions. Mr. Simpson was married April 7, 1891, to Miss Lilly M. Hooker, daughter of Joseph and Emma (White) Hooker, of Grand Rapids.

Willis D. Sinclair.—In the case of many men there seems to be but one line which they can follow with success, one vocation which fits their abilities, one special occupation in which they can attain prosperity, and until they have settled themselves in that special groove they are able to make but little headway. To the man of versatile talents and abilities, however, any line of occupation which presents itself is acceptable, and if he be persistent enough he will win success in whatever field he finds employment. The career of Willis D. Sinclair is an illustration of diversified activity and of success

Hosted by Google

won in several fields of endeavor. He is not only known as a leading and substantial business man, but as one of the citizens of Sand Lake who have been instrumental in advancing their community's welfare, interests and institutions. Mr. Sinclair is a native son of Montcalm county, born on his father's farm, Sept. 11, 1860, son of Asa Sinclair, a native of New York State. He received his education in the district schools and grew up on the home farm, where in his boyhood and early youth he acted as his father's assistant, but shortly before attaining his majority began teaching in the country schools. While accounted a capable educator, he felt that better success lay before him in some other line, and he accordingly learned the trade of carpenter, which he followed for several years before branching out into the building business, and he was for twelve years at Belding in the lumber business. It was in this connection that he came into contact with the hardware trade, which attracted his interest and attention and in which he eventually engaged, in 1906. How well he has prospered in this field is shown by the fact that he now has the leading establishment of its kind at Sand Lake and controls a large share of the business of this thriving community and its surrounding territory. Mr. Sinclair, as an astute business man, realizes that his best profits will come through handling a large volume of business and having the confidence and good will of his customers, and his trade has increased accordingly. He carries a full line of shelf and heavy hardware, acts as agent for farming machinery concerns, and handles all such other articles that are demanded by his trade and which are adjuncts of the hardware business. That Mr. Sinclair holds the confidence of the community is shown in his presidency of the village of Sand Lake for several years and his former treasurership of the school board. His public services were rendered in a faithful and highly efficient manner and served to further stamp him as a citizen of worth and value. Politically he is a Republican, but declines to be bound absolutely by the dictates of party leaders, and at times is inclined to take an independent stand on matters of public policy. His fraternal connection is with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M. Mr. Sinclair married Dora, daughter of Ira Scott, an agriculturist of Kent county, and they are the parents of a son, Clyde, who is a successful traveling salesman in the employ of the Art Stove Company, with headquarters at Detroit, Mich.

Captain James Sinke was born at Ludington, Mich., Oct. 28, 1884, son of Adrian and Johanna (Lamb) Sinke. He received his education in the public schools and began to make his own way in life as a printer at the age of sixteen. Coming to Grand Rapids in 1904 as an employee of the Dean-Hicks Company, he became the head stoneman of that concern and Nov. 15, 1915, entered business for himself as head of the Sinke-Sautter Printing Company. When the call came for Mexican service, he was obliged to leave his business, and upon his return, eight months later, he sold his interest in the business, since devoting his entire time to the military service. He began his military career as a bugler with the National Guard at Ludington and on March 12, 1906, joined Company K at Grand Rapids, as bugler. On July 10, 1907, he gained the rank of corporal

Hosted by Google

and March 21, 1909, was promoted to sergeant and detailed as first sergeant. On Feb. 27, 1911, he was commissioned second lieutenant and he became captain of the company on Feb. 7, 1917. He was married Oct. 28, 1908, to E. Orel Randall and their son, Donald A., is now a charming lad of nine years. Captain Sinke is proud of his Dutch ancestry. He is an expert rifle man and is the owner of many medals received in military competition. He has perfected himself by work in officers' training schools and has seen service not only on the Mexican border, but in strike service on the upper peninsula. In August, 1917, he went with his command to Waco, Tex., and remained there until Jan. 20, 1918, when he was stationed at Camp Merritt, New Jersey. On Feb. 16, 1918, he sailed for France and is now doing valiant service for his country in the great world war.

Henry Sipple.—The name of Henry Sipple, of Courtland township, is well known in agricultural circles throughout this part of the county, and particularly in the vicinity of Sand Lake, where he is the owner of a handsome farm. He has been an active factor in the agricultural development of this part of the county during the past thirty years, and in the community in which he makes his home and where his social nature is best known, he is most popular, the circle of his friends being almost co-extensive with the circle of his acquaintances. Mr. Sipple was born in the State of New York, July 9, 1853, son of Christopher and Maggie (Apples) Sipple. His father was born in Germany and as a young man, in order to better his condition, emigrated to the United States and first settled in New York State. He was a pioneer into Michigan in the days of the wild country and became a resident of Kent county as early as 1864, when settlers were few, comforts were fewer, wild game abounded and the land now devoted to farming was covered with a heavy growth of timber. He took up his residence in Courtland township, where he bought land and started farming. This community continued to be his home during the remaining years of his life and by his industry and perseverance he succeeded in winning a substantial competence. Mr. Sipple married Miss Maggie Apples, also a native of Germany, and to them were born fourteen children, all of whom are living at this time, with one exception. Henry Sipple was educated in the district schools of Courtland township and was reared on his father's farm. He has had much experience in various ways and his youth was filled with much hard labor, including the clearing of much heavily timbered land and labor in the lumber woods. However, during the past thirty years he has devoted himself to farming, and in this connection has made a success of his affairs, having accumulated a good piece of property which he has improved with modern equipment and substantial buildings. Mr. Sipple married Miss Anna Borst, of Nelson township, born in Pennsylvania, Sept. 25, 1871, a daughter of Philip Borst. This family is an old and prominent one in the United States, being traced back for several generations in the State of New York, where it had many public men in its members, including candidates for governor and other high offices, and a judge of the Supreme Court of that state. Philip Borst was a Union soldier in the Civil war and after the battle of Antietam was promoted in rank because of conspicuous bravery in action. He was a miller

Hosted by Google

and farmer for many years up to his death, which occurred at Evans, Mich., in 1912. Five children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Sipple: Ethel, born Dec. 19, 1889, now the wife of Fred Smith, of Edmore, engaged in the produce and poultry business; Charles F., born at North Decatur, Mich., May 4, 1895, graduated from the Edmore school in 1916, and has since held a postoffice position at Detroit; Catherine, born June 3, 1902, now attending school; Cecelia, born Aug. 21, 1905, and also attending school; and Henry DeForrest, born June 19, 1912.

William M. Sipples.—In a history of the men of the past and present who have figured prominently in connection with agricultural development and progress in Nelson township, mention should be made of William M. Sipples, whose entire life has been passed here, and who is now a substantial farmer and a respected citizen. Mr. Sipples was born in Nelson township, March 11, 1862, son of William Sipples. The elder man was born in Germany, but was a child of four years when brought to the United States, the family originally locating in New York State. There William Sipples grew to manhood and received his education, but when still a young man he heard the call of the West and accordingly came to Michigan, his first location being at Ann Arbor. Lumbering was the vocation which attracted and held his interest for many years, but gradually, as the timber began to disappear, he became more and more interested in farming, and finally gave up his other holdings to devote his entire time thereto on a property in Nelson township. He is now well advance in years, but still active in affairs, although principally as the owner and operator of a threshing outfit. Mr. Sipples married Catherine Soll, of a well-known family of this locality, and of this union there were born the following children: John, a farmer of Nelson township, who married Florence Cowles; Persis, who married Earl Williams, a farmer of this locality, and has a son, Wayne, one year old; Minnie, who married Mason Coles and has a daughter, Cleo, a teacher in the public schools and a graduate of Sand Lake High School; and William M. William M. Sipples relied upon the training received in the East Nelson schools for his education, and when he was ready to enter upon his own career chose farming as the occupation in which to work out his life's success. His training had been all along that line, and if his present success can be taken as an indication, his choice was a wise and fortunate one. The owner of eighty acres of fertile and valuable land, he is accounted one of the substantial men of his community, whose prosperity has been self-gained and who has had to ask for no outside help or use any unfair tactics in his operations. While his activities have been devoted almost entirely to his homestead, in the improvement and modernizing of which he has been kept decidedly busy, he has found time and had the inclination to align himself with other public-spirited men in the working out of problems pertaining to the civic welfare of his locality. He served for a short period as a member of the board of school directors, and is a supporter of Republican principles and candidates. Mr. Sipples married Miss Lottie Howard, daughter of A. W. and Alice (Unger) Howard. Mr. Howard, who served through the Civil war as a Union soldier and came through

Hosted by Google

that struggle unscathed, was engaged in grist-mill work until 1889, at that time taking up farming. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits in Nelson and Spencer townships, where he was highly esteemed, but he and Mrs. Howard are now both deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Sipples have been born two daughters, the Misses Lela and Lola, both of whom are still attending school.

James A. Skinner.—The business interests of the village of Cedar Springs have shown a marked increase in growth during recent years, and this desirable state of affairs may be accredited to the enterprising business men, whose energy and modern methods have put the city on a sound financial basis, while co-operating with the officials of the village in looking after its municipal needs. It may be said of James A. Skinner, a leading citizen of Cedar Springs, that he belongs to both classes, for he is not only a representative business man, of twenty-two years' standing, but also has served in several positions of trust and responsibility within the gift of the people. Mr. Skinner has the added distinction of being a native of Cedar Springs, born Sept. 28, 1875, son of William P. and Eva A. Skinner. William P. Skinner was for many years one of the leading factors in the business and official life of the village, having been postmaster for a long period, and while he is now living in retirement, at a ripe old age, still takes a keen and active interest in the life of the community in which he has resided so long and to the welfare of which he has contributed so materially. James A. Skinner received an excellent training in his youth for his battle with life, his early education being gained in the public schools of Cedar Springs, this supplemented by attendance at Northwestern University, Evanston, Chicago. Thus fitted, he returned to his native place and in 1896 established himself in the drug business, on Main street, and his business, commenced in a modest way, has been built up to large proportions through Mr. Skinner's good management, policy of fairness in dealing, and manner and methods in carrying on his enterprise. The volume of business is large and in its scope extends all over the village, including the best families and also attracting a large outside trade from the country districts. Mr. Skinner carries a stock that includes a full line of drugs and all goods usual to the stock of a store of this character, in addition to which he has a large line of wall paper, stationery and kindred articles. Mr. Skinner's position as one of the leading and reliable merchants of Cedar Springs is assured, but his efforts have not always been confined to his own advancement, for he has not been backward in contributing his abilities to the welfare of his community and has also had a large share in the work of civic government. He has been president of the village, has for some years been president of the school board, and has been a member of the village council. In his official work, as in his business, his activities have been characterized by thoroughness, conscientiousness and fidelity to trust, and few men have established better records while in office. Mr. Skinner's political tendencies make him a stanch Republican. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Modern Woodmen of America. He married Matie, daughter of Joseph Doyle, of Cedar Springs, and she died, leaving a daughter, Dorothy, who is now attending the high school.

Hosted by Google

Joseph LaVerne Skinner.—The entire career of Joseph LaVerne Skinner, of Grand Rapids, has been passed in connection with matters of a financial nature, and from the time he left school to the present his rise in banking circles has been a steady and consistent one. His start was secured in a minor capacity, and as he has worked his way upward he has become thoroughly conversant with the various departments of banking, so that he is eminently capable of discharging in an efficient manner the duties of manager of Branch D, of the City Trust and Savings Bank, which position he holds at this time. Mr. Skinner was born at Sandwich, Ill., Oct. 31, 1883, son of Joseph and Augusta (Hudgens) Skinner. His father, who is now retired from active pursuits and a resident of Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, was a farmer by vocation, and the early years of Joseph L. Skinner were passed in the vicinity of Sandwich, Ill., where he attended the public schools. His educational training was furthered by attendance at the public schools of Quincy, Ill., and Bedford, Ia., and his first experience with banking matters was secured at Chicago, where, in 1903, he became a clerk in the Corn Exchange National Bank. In the three years that followed he gained much profitable banking knowledge with this institution, one of the most prominent of the Illinois metropolis, and in 1906 he came to Grand Rapids to accept the position of assistant bookkeeper with the National City Bank. From that position he was promoted to receiving teller, and July 2, 1917, was offered and accepted the post of manager of Branch D of the City Trust & Savings Bank. A young man whose experience has been gained at the desk, in a practical and thorough manner, and who has relied solely upon his own abilities for his advancement, he has already made a name for himself in banking circles of the city and is accounted as thoroughly worthy of the trust reposed in him. A pleasing and likable personality has enhanced his value to his institution and he has already gained a firmly established place in the favor and confidence of the depositors of his branch. Mr. Skinner is an independent voter, endeavoring to give his support to good men and measures without party leadership or ties. With Mrs. Skinner he belongs to the First Methodist Episcopal church. Popular socially, he belongs to the Point Paulo Club, and is also well known in Masonry, being treasurer of Malta Lodge and a member of Columbian Chapter, Tyre Council and Lalakoum Grotto. Mr. Skinner was married Sept. 8, 1914, to Estella Margaret, daughter of Robert and Margaret (Hurst) McKinley, of Grand Rapids.

Rev. Casimir Skory, pastor of St. Adelbert's Polish Catholic Parish, of Grand Rapids, has held his present charge since 1904, and during the fourteen years that he has labored here has lastingly impressed the community with his self-sacrificing work in the cause he serves and has displayed qualities which have called forth general admiration and commendation even from those who have differed most radically with him theologically and politically. His sincere piety, his intense moral earnestness, his great industry, his kindliness and his spirit of tolerance have not alone made him beloved by his flock and prosperous in the affairs of the parish, but have gained him the good will and assistance of those of other creeds, without which no priest considers he has achieved the fullness of success. Father Skory was born March 4, 1864, at Trzemeszko, Poland, a son of

Hosted by Google

Casimir and Theresa (Reyman) Skory. He secured his early education in the schools of his native place, and when eleven years of age was brought to the United States by his mother, first locating at Bay City, Mich. Having decided to enter the priesthood of the Catholic church, the lad attended the parochial schools of Bay City for over five years, and in 1881 was sent to Rome, Italy, where he prosecuted his theological studies in a Polish college and was graduated in 1888. Returning to the United States, his first charge was at Chicago, where for two years he was assistant at St. Stanislaus' church, and for two years following was a teacher in St. Mary's College, at St. Mary's, Kentucky. During twelve years he was in charge of a parish at Gaylord, Mich., and in 1904 he came to Grand Rapids to accept his present charge. His assistants are Fathers Stephen Narroch and Paul Felchnerowski. Father Skory may well be counted among those who fortunately have chosen that life vocation for which they are best fitted. The natural and temperamental endowments which in him contribute to a strongly marked character, easily lend themselves to the facile and successful accomplishment of the many-sided duties inevitable to the life of an active priest of the church. Successively as student, teacher, assistant and settled pastor, his life has ever been so active as to worthily win for him a conspicuous place in the ranks of the church militant. During his pastorate here the present beautiful church has been erected at a cost of $150,000.

Arthur T. Slaght.—Among the business men of Grand Rapids who in recent years have taken advantage of the opportunities offered here for preferment and have profited materially thereby, one who has become well known is Arthur T. Slaght. Mr. Slaght has been a resident of Grand Rapids since 1891 and during the greater part of this time has been identified with banking concerns, having been connected, since 1905, with the Grand Rapids National City Bank, of which he is now assistant cashier. He was born in Seneca county, New York, and is a son of Amram C. Slaght. His education was secured in the public schools of his native place, following which his first employment was as clerk in a store at Ovid, N. Y. In 1878 he came to Michigan, locating first at Caro, at which place he had a position in the Tuscola County Bank, his first experience of this nature. He subsequently, from 1886 to 1891, had various other business experiences, principally in the loaning and abstract business, but in 1891 changed his residence to Grand Rapids, which city has continued to be his home and the scene of his continued prosperity. On his arrival here he entered the electrotype business, later going to the Old National Bank and still later to the Kent County Savings Bank. When he joined the Grand Rapids National City Bank, March 1, 1905, it was in the capacity of manager of the county banking business department. In 1916 he was advanced to his present post, that of assistant cashier. During the many years of his connection with banking affairs, Mr. Slaght has gained an intimate knowledge of methods and conditions. He is conservative and careful, an expert accountant and a man of loyalty and fidelity, whose identification with the institution has served to promote its interests in several ways. He and his family belong to the Park Congregational church, and Mr. Slaght holds membership in the O-wash-ta-nong club. He married Dicie L. Carlough, of Hopewell, N. Y., and they are the parents

Hosted by Google

of one son, Harold T., secretary and advertising manager of the Saginaw Daily News.

Charles R. Sligh.—In his rise from tinsmith's apprentice to prominent position in the business world, Charles R. Sligh has had only the assistance given him by his natural gifts. In fact he was given even less than the regular advantages which it is felt that youth should receive, for when he was but entering his 'teens his father fell as a martyr to the great god of war and the lad was forced to assume a man's responsibilities at a time when he was still a boy. It was his fortune, however, to have been possessed of sturdy Scotch-Irish ancestry and to have inherited from his forefathers the best qualities of both races. With these as his capital he fought his own battles bravely and faithfully and won his way to high honors and to a place where he now commands the respect and esteem of the leading business men of his city. Grand Rapids has been the scene of the working out of Mr. Sligh's entire career. Here he was born, Jan. 5, 1850, son of James W. and Eliza (Wilson) Sligh. His father was born in Scotland, in 1821, and his mother in Ireland, in 1822, and they met at Rochester, N. Y., where they were married in 1843. Three years later they came to Grand Rapids, where Mr. Sligh was engaged in business until the outbreak of the Civil war, when he enlisted in the service of the Union, becoming captain of Company F, First Michigan Engineers. He was a brave, valuable and faithful soldier, serving his country with valor and fidelity until 1863, when, as a result of injuries received while in the performance of duty, he died. Mrs. Sligh survived him for many years, dying at Grand Rapids, Jan. 23, 1892. There were three children in the family: Dr. James M., who is engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery in Montana; Mrs. Julia S. Follett, a resident of Grand Rapids; and Charles R. Charles R. Sligh was attending the public schools of Grand Rapids when news was received of his father's death, and he continued to apply himself to his studies until he was fifteen years of age, at that time becoming apprenticed to the tinsmith's trade under Wilder D. Foster. He served his full apprenticeship and mastered his vocation, and continued to work thereat for some time, being with Mr. Foster in all for about nine years. At that time Mr. Sligh gave up the tinsmith's trade and turned his attention to the furniture business. His first practical experience therein was secured as a traveling representative of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company, and for six years he was a knight of the grip, familiarizing himself with every angle of the business, becoming widely acquainted with the trade and making numerous friends in various communities. Thus, when in 1880 he effected the organization of the Sligh Furniture Company, he had already laid the foundation for a successful business structure and the company, of which he was president and general manager, had a rapid and steady development. Since that time Mr. Sligh has been identified with various business organizations. He has given his support to incipient enterprises and has assisted them in their growth to maturity and prosperity, and still retains his connection with a number of leading firms, being at this time a member of the board of directors of the Grand Rapids National City Bank, the City Trust & Savings Bank and the Grand Rapids Trust Company; vice-president of the New Pantlind Hotel Company and of the Empress Theatre Com-

Hosted by Google

pany; president of two timber companies and one irrigation company in the West; president of the Furniture Manufacturers' Insurance Company, and secretary and treasurer of the Clark Iron Company. For many years he was president of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade. Mr. Sligh is a man who has led a career touching on many sides, and whatever he has found to do he has done to the full measure of his strength and ability. He is a great believer in the development of youth, and in this connection is serving as president of the Grand Rapids Council, Boy Scouts of America. Until 1896 he supported the principles and candidates of the regular Republican organization, but in that year he assisted in the formation of the Silver Republican party and for a time was prominent in its ranks. However, he has never been a politician, nor has he made a business of seeking favors at the hands of any political organizations. He has been primarily a business man and has found success and contentment in working out the problems and complexities of competition in the world of industry and finance. Mr. and Mrs. Sligh are members of Grace Protestant Episcopal Church, in which he belongs to the vestry. Mr. Sligh was married in 1875 to Miss Mary S. Conger, of Wisconsin, who died in the faith of the Congregational church, in 1903. She is survived by three children—Edith, Adeline and Loraine. In 1905 Mr. Sligh was again married, being united with Miss Edith E. Clark. They have two children—Charles R. Jr., and Gertrude.

Ansel Brooks Smith, M. D.—One of the younger members of the medical profession of Kent county, Dr. Ansel Brooks Smith has already attained a position of prominence in his chosen calling and is at this time secretary of the Michigan State Homeopathic Society. Dr. Smith was born at Petoskey, Mich., Sept. 23, 1885, son of R. C. Smith, formerly a well-known business man of that city, who is now retired and a resident of Jackson, Mich. After attending the Petoskey High School, Dr. Smith entered the University of Michigan, where he had a brilliant career as a student and graduated with the class of 1909 with his degree as Doctor of Medicine. At that time he received an appointment as professor of gynecology and obstetrics at the University of Michigan, holding that post for two years, and June 1, 1911, engaged in practice at Grand Rapids, where he now maintains offices in the Metz building. Dr. Smith has attracted to himself a large and lucrative practice and has gained wide recognition of his skill and knowledge. While he carries on a general practice, he has specialized to some extent in surgery and achieved something more than ordinary reputation as a result of his success in a number of complicated and difficult cases. In homeopathic circles he is widely known, and is secretary of the State Homeopathic Society and a member of the Western Homeopathic Association and the American Institute of Homeopathy. He is also a member of the staff of the Blodgett Memorial Hospital. Still a young man, with the best years of his life lying before him, he will no doubt achieve accomplishments that will place him among the eminent men of his calling. While attending college he belonged to the Medical Literary Club of the University of Michigan. Dr. Smith was married Jan. 24, 1912, to Miss Mary Louise Parker, daughter of B. W. Parker, of Detroit, Mich., and they have two children—Mary Campau and Ansel Brooks, Jr.

Hosted by Google

Coridon E. Smith.—Many and great are the changes which have been made in Kent county since the arrival of John Smith, an immigrant from the State of New York. At that early date in the history of the county the most primitive conditions prevailed and the men who laid the foundations and blazed the trails for those yet to come had to be possessed of courage, fortitude and patience. Mr. Smith was of this character and the same characteristics are to be found in his son, Coridon Smith, who is perpetuating the family name and carrying on agricultural pursuits in Nelson township. Mr. Smith was born in this township and on the original family homestead, Nov. 28, 1867. His father, John Smith, had been a farmer in the Empire State, but the progress he was making did not satisfy this sturdy pioneer, and he accordingly sought a field in which his determination for success might have a chance of realization. Coming to Michigan he settled on what is now known as the Odell farm, just at the limits of the village of Cedar Springs, and prepared to hew out a home from the wilderness. At that time Cedar Springs boasted of but one house, and that was made of logs. His first operations were necessarily in the lumber business, for the nature of the country at that time made impossible engaging in farming, but when he had cleared a sufficient tract of land he turned his attention again to agricultural pursuits and continued to be engaged therein during the remainder of his life. He was industrious, persevering and a man of good judgment in business matters, so that his affairs prospered and he was able to spend his last years in comfortable retirement from active labors. Mr. Smith married Miss Lydia, daughter of Frank Propper, of New York State. The following children were born of this union: Frank P., a carpenter at Sparta; Alice, wife of Jonathan Wooden, of Pierson, Mich.; Clara, who married Charles Stephens, a farmer of Solon township, Kent county; Coridon E., and George H., Solon township farmer; and Anna L., wife of George Wickett, formerly a painter and paperhanger, but now conducting an automobile garage at Cedar Springs. C. E. Smith was educated in the district schools of Solon township and the high school at Cedar Springs, and immediately upon the completion of education started farming, in which he has continued to be engaged to the present time. He has made a success of the vocation which he chose as his life work when he entered upon his career, being the owner of 119 acres of good land in Nelson township, the greater part of which is cleared and under a high state of cultivation. He is alive to the improvements and advancements being made in farming, and is a member of the Gleaners, and his activities have shown him to be both practical and progressive. Mr. Smith married Miss Maud J., daughter of John and Sarah Sycles, of Kent county, and of this union have been born six children: Goldie E., who married Joseph Anderson, a farmer of Kent county; Vita, a graduate of the State Normal School, who is now teaching in the graded school at Sand Lake; Sadie A., who was formerly a public school teacher, but now living at home; Esther A. and Alton W., who are pupils in the public schools, and Howard E., the baby. Mr. Smith has been variously active in the life of the community, having served very acceptably for six years as treasurer of the school board, a mark of esteem on the part of his fellow-citizens that demonstrates the confidence in which he is held. He ad-

Hosted by Google

heres to the principles of the Republican party in his political affiliation, while as a fraternalist he belongs to Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M.

Richard R. Smith, M. D.—Success in any of the pursuits of life invariably challenges the admiration of the world. It is the one distinctive and distinguishing characteristic of all the transactions of existence, it matters not whether it be in the profession of law, education or medicine, or in the theological domain, in journalism, in military or civic affairs, or in public or political life. In the medical field alone, Dr. Richard R. Smith has won distinction and material reputation. During a period of twenty-one years he has been engaged in the practice of his profession at Grand Rapids, and few men have been more successful, particularly in the field of surgery, in which he has specialized entirely for a considerable number of years. Richard R. Smith, M. D., was born Dec. 10, 1869, at Grand Rapids, Mich., one of the five children of Rev. J. Morgan and Cordelia (Root) Smith. His father was born at Glastonbury, Hartford county, Connecticut, and his mother at Middle Haddam, Middlesex county, in the same state, and they came to Grand Rapids in 1863. Here Reverend Smith, who was a minister of the Congregational faith, became pastor of the Park Church and held that pastorate until his death, which occurred Oct. 1, 1883. Mrs. Smith survived until Oct. 27, 1906. They were parents of the following children: Mary, who became the wife of Fred Parsons, of Brooklyn, N. Y., both of whom are now deceased; James A., born Nov. 3, 1865, who is United States consul-general at Calcutta, India; Dr. Richard R.; Gertrude M., of Grand Rapids; and J. Morgan, Jr., of San Francisco, Cal. Richard R. Smith attended Phillips Academy at Andover, Mass., for three years and then returned to Grand Rapids, where he graduated in the Central High School in 1888. Following his graduation from the latter he enrolled as a student at the University of Michigan in the literary department, where he continued one year. He then entered the department of medicine of the same institution, in which he received his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1892. Very soon after this he became house physician at the Butterworth Hospital, in which capacity he acted for six months. Following this he entered general practice at Chassell, Houghton county, Michigan. Dr. Smith remained at that point for two and one-half years, when, to further his knowledge of medicine, he went to Europe and for one and one-half years prosecuted his studies in Germany and Vienna. Upon his return to Grand Rapids in 1897, he became associated for a short time with Dr. Reuben Peterson, now of Ann Arbor, Mich. At this time he began to specialize in surgery. Since 1905 Dr. Henry J. Vandenberg has been associated with him almost continuously in surgical practice. His practice has continued to grow and develop as his abilities have become recognized, and among his professional brethren he is accounted one of the leaders in his calling. Dr. Smith is a valued member of the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is also member of the Mississippi Valley Medical Association. He early became a fellow of the Chicago Gynecological and American Gynecological Societies and was one of the founders of the American College of Surgeons. He is also a member of the American Gynecolog-

Hosted by Google

ical Club. He is a thirty-second degree Mason. As a citizen, while he has not sought public office or preferment above his fellows, he has always given his support to progressive and beneficial movements and has been generous in contributing of his abilities and energies where they have been asked in the forwarding of public-spirited enterprises. In the Spring of 1917, following the entrance of the United States in the war, he became the director, with the rank of major, of the Butterworth-Blodgett Red Cross Hospital, Unit Q. Dr. Smith was married April 27, 1898, to Miss Myra Wonderly, daughter of Joseph H. and Queen (Ledyard) Wonderly, of Grand Rapids, and of this unoin there have been born two children—Dorothy R. and Beatrice.

John Smits.—The kind of material which the financial interests of Grand Rapids will look to for their support and betterment in the coming years is represented by John Smits, who occupies the responsible position of manager of the Wealthy Street Branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. While this is the day of the young man, who is now found occupying positions of trust which formerly taxed the energies of those many years his senior, there are few to be found who have made such rapid strides as has Mr. Smits since he came to Grand Rapids to enter upon his career as a bank messenger. Mr. Smits is a representative of the sturdy element that has come from the Netherlands to occupy places in every avenue of life in Grand Rapids and was himself born in that country, Dec. 25, 1893, his parents being William and Marie (Van der Laan) Smits. His father, a miller by trade, which vocation he had followed in his native land, brought his family to the United States in 1905, and, locating at Grand Rapids, secured employment with the Valley City Milling Company, with which concern he is still connected. He is a Republican, a devout member of the First Christian Reformed church, and a good citizen of his adopted land. William and Marie Smits have had the following children: John; Henry, of Grand Rapids; Kathryn, residing with her parents; Raymond, who lives in this city; Minnie, with her parents; and William, Jr., also at home. The eldest child of his parents, John Smits received his early education in the public schools of his native country, and supplemented this by attendance at the high school at Grand Rapids, to which city he was brought as a lad of less than twelve years. Later he went to McLachlan's Business College, and completed his studies at the Grand Rapids University, and with this excellent preparation began his career in banking circles. His first experience was gained in the position of messenger with the Grand Rapids National City Bank, but he did not long remain in that position, for his ability, fidelity and ambition were soon discovered and he gradually arose through the different positions until, in 1914, he left that institution and cast his fortunes with the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, as a general clerk. Later he was advanced to the post of teller, and from this it was but a step to take up the duties of relief manager of the various branches, where he secured the necessary experience for the position of manager of the Wealthy Street Branch, to which he was appointed in October, 1915. Mr. Smits is secretary and treasurer of the Morningside Improvement Society and takes a keen interest in the life of his community. He is an independent voter in politics, and belongs to the Christian Reformed church. Before her marriage, June 3, 1915,

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Smits was Miss Johanna Engberg, daughter of well-known people of Grand Rapids. She and Mr. Smits have a son, William.

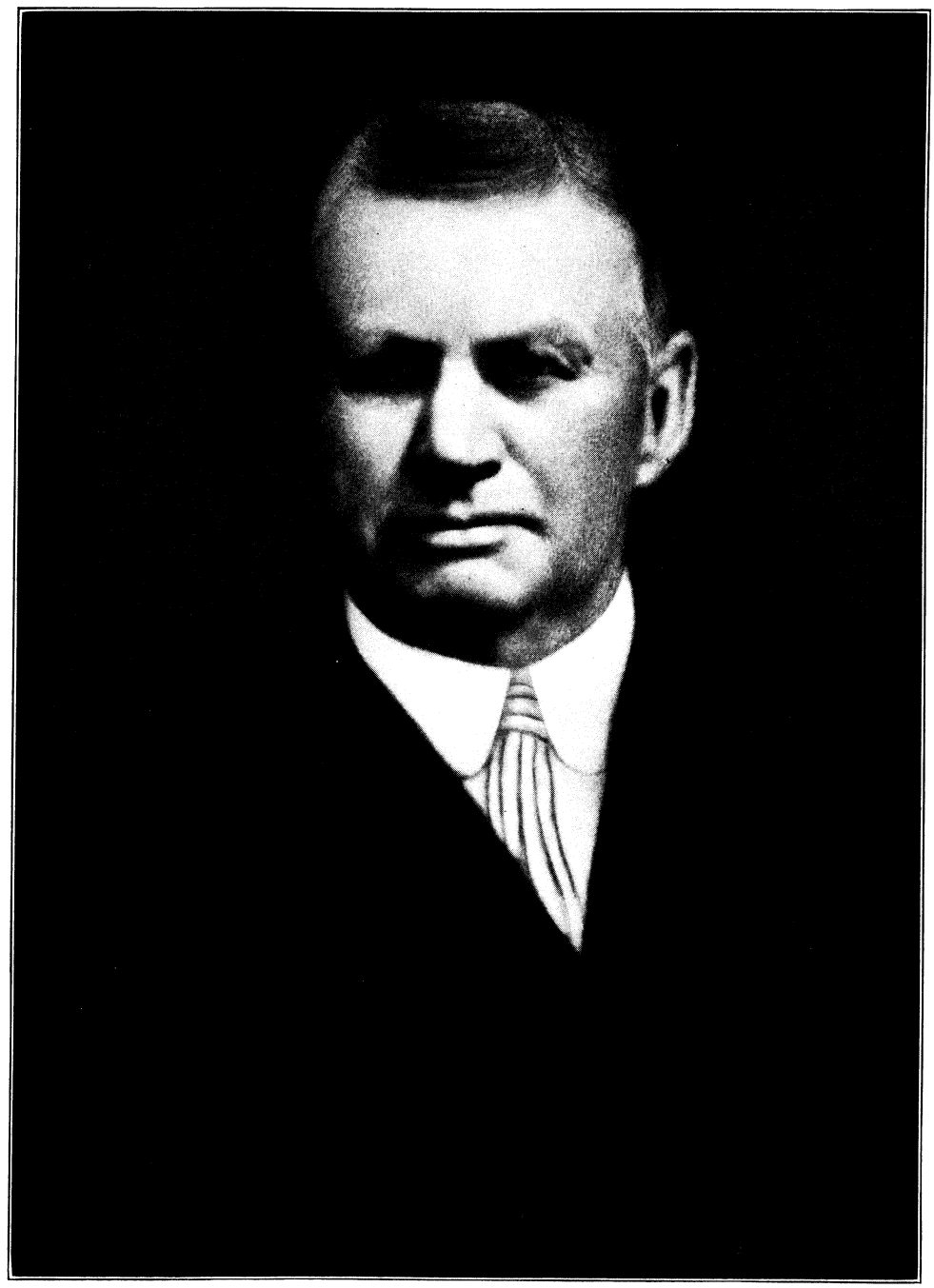
Dillman Snyder, Jr.—For the past nine years Caledonia township has profited by the energy and good judgment of Dillman Snyder, Jr., who owns and operates a farm of seventy-two acres on section 15. During his occupancy Mr. Snyder has added to the improvements of the former owner, and, in engaging in general farming and stock raising, is conducting his operations along practical and modern lines. Mr. Snyder belongs to a family which originated in Switzerland, but which came to the United States 180 years ago and settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. From that community they removed to Canada, in the year 1803, and settled in County Waterloo, Ontario, where Dillman Snyder, Sr., has passed his entire life. He was born and reared in this community and for a long period of years was engaged in agricultural pursuits, but the rigors of farm life in that country broke down his health, and as he was still in middle age and not ready for retirement he applied himself to the task of learning the trade of harness-maker, which he duly mastered. He followed this vocation with success for many more years, and is now living retired in Canada, having reached the age of eighty-four. Mrs. Snyder, who bore the maiden name of Lydia Anna Shoemaker, is now deceased. There were three children in the family—Dillman, Jr., and two adopted daughters—Anna, with whom Mr. Snyder now makes his home, and Catherine, deceased. Dillman Snyder, the younger, was born in County Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, Oct. 15, 1869, and in his native locality received his education in the public schools. When he was twelve years of age he left the parental roof and sought employment on the farms of the neighboring communities, and he continued to be so engaged until he was nineteen years old, when he came to the United States and located at Saginaw, Mich., in which city he arrived June 6, 1889. After spending three years in that locality he began traveling to various points in Michigan and nearby states, but finally, in 1909, settled down permanently in Caledonia township, Kent county, where he purchased 152 acres of land. Later he sold off eighty acres of this property, and at the present time is engaged in the cultivation of seventy-two acres. He has fine improvements and commodious buildings, and his labors have been lightened by the installation of modern machinery and the use of the most enlightened methods. For the greater part he has applied himself to general farming, and the success that has rewarded his efforts evidences the possession of good agricultural ability and of more than ordinary business judgment and acumen. Mr. Snyder is a Republican, but has no political aspirations. His fraternal connection is with the Knights of the Maccabees, in which he is deservedly popular. Mr. Snyder was married Sept. 14, 1898, to Miss Isabelle, daughter of Joseph and May (Cole) Weber, natives of County Waterloo, Canada, who at one time had a farm in Allegan county, Michigan, but both are now deceased. To Mr. and Mrs. Snyder have been born two children: Edith, Oct. 20, 1899, and Paul Leo, March 10, 1903. Mr. Snyder is one of the live and progressive men of his township, alive to new innovations, and is a factor in the various movements which have assisted the locality to grow and prosper.

Hosted by Google

Frank W. Squier.—A man of large affairs, displaying at all times an aptitude for successful management, combined with keen sagacity in investment and marked executive ability in control of important interests, Frank W. Squier was long known as one of Grand Rapids' able business men, who contributed to the advancement and prestige of the city and whose citizenship was of a high order. Mr. Squier was born at Rochester, N. Y., Oct. 19, 1853, son of David W. and Sarah (Dayton) Squier, natives of the Empire State. The elder Squier, who was also a man of foresight and business ability, realized the possibilities of the West, and during the latter '50s or early '60s came to Michigan, settling at Grant, Newaygo county. There he passed the remainder of his life in important ventures, principally connected with the lumber industry, in which he was widely known. Both he and Mrs. Squier died many years ago. Frank W. Squier received his education in the public schools of Newaygo, Mich., and attended business college in Grand Rapids, as a youth, securing his first business experience while working with his father in the lumber business. He also applied himself to farming to some extent, a vocation in which he attained success, and later on in his career was the proprietor of a milling business near Grant, Mich. After a long and successful career he retired from active affairs and moved to Grand Rapids, where his death occurred eight years later, Feb. 5, 1915. Mr. Squier, as noted, was a man of keenness in making investments, and owned good farming lands and other realty, in addition to which he was a director and stockholder in banks at Grant, White Cloud and Sparta, and the Fourth National Bank of Grand Rapids. Throughout his entire business career, and in all of his dealings, it can be said of Mr. Squier that he never sought to benefit by the misfortune of others. He was a Democrat in his political views, but the public arena held out no attractions to him, he being wrapped up in his business affairs. Fraternally, he was connected with Grand Rapids Lodge of the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Squier was married Feb. 19, 1891, to Miss Mary Dickinson, daughter of Frank and Mary (Kimbell) Dickinson, of Jonesville, Mich., who survives him and resides at 218 Union avenue, S. E. Mrs. Squier is a native of Hillsdale county, Michigan, and is well known, both in her native county and in the community of her pleasant home at Grand Rapids.

Henry Stehouwer.—The vigorous and forceful younger banking element of Grand Rapids has a worthy and capable representative in the person of Henry Stehouwer, who since February, 1912, has been manager of the Leonard Street Branch of the Kent State Bank. While born in a foreign land, he has been a resident of Grand Rapids since infancy, and his entire training, educational, business and financial, has been secured here, so that his career may be said to be typical of what is being accomplished by the young men of brains, energy and resource who have laid their plans well and followed them out perseveringly in the Furniture City. Mr. Stehouwer was born near the city of Rotterdam, Netherlands, July 11, 1881, son of William and Mary E. (Van Proijen) Stehouwer, natives of the same country. His father, who was a small farmer in his own country, felt that he could achieve greater success in the United States and accordingly came here with his family, in 1882, and located at Grand Rap-

Hosted by Google



FRANK W. SQUIRE

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

ids. Here he secured employment in a factory, and during the following ten years worked industriously and saved thriftily in order that he might become a property owner. In 1892 his ambition was realized by the attainment of a good Ottawa county farm, on which he continued to carry on successful agricultural operations until his death, July 23, 1916. He was a sturdy and energetic man, working perseveringly to carry out what he had planned, an honorable citizen, and a man who had at all times the respect of his fellow-men. Politically he was a Republican, and his religious affiliation was with the Christian Reformed church, to which belongs also his widow, who since his demise has been living in quiet retirement at Lamont, Mich. They were the parents of ten children: Cornelius, a resident of Grand Rapids; John, who lives at Prairie City, Ia.; Peter, of Grand Rapids; Mary, wife of John Van Harn, of Zeeland, Mich.; Benjamin, of Lamont, Mich.; Henry; Bessie, wife of Arthur Modderman, of Lamont; Joseph and Edward, who reside at Grand Rapids; and Jennie, wife of Abraham Hyma, of Grand Rapids. Henry Stehouwer was a child of but one year when brought by his parents to Grand Rapids, and here he was given good educational advantages, attending the public schools of this city and Lamont, and Calvin College, Grand Rapids, and later supplementing this with attendance at McLachlan's Business College. He was eleven years old when he began to live on the farm and there remained until twenty-two, when he went to Coopersville and for one and one-half years was connected with the Coopersville State Bank. The next six months he spent with the Holland City State Bank, at Holland, Mich., and he then returned to Grand Rapids to accept a position with the Kent State Bank. He rapidly rose in the confidence and estimation of his employers and in February, 1912, was placed in charge of the Leonard Street Branch of the institution, where he has fully vindicated the faith reposed in him. Mr. Stehouwer is a Republican and a member of the Christian Reformed church. His social connection is with the Lotus club, and as a public-spirited citizen of his neighborhood he has contributed of his time, means and energies in assisting to attain the objects of the Northwestern Improvement Association, of which he is a member. Mr. Stehouwer was married Nov. 2, 1910, to Johanna, daughter of John and Mary (Priester) Smit, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born two children—William Henry and Mariam Elizabeth.

Jacob Steketee.—Among the families of Grand Rapids whose members have long held important positions in business, professional and public life, none are better known or more highly esteemed than that which bears the name of Steketee. Ever since the arrival of John Steketee in this city, in 1849 or 1850, those who have borne the name have contributed to the prestige of Grand Rapids in one or another way, and a worthy representative of the family is found in Jacob Steketee, son of John, a lawyer of prominence, a leading factor in the real estate business, and a citizen who has figured prominently in public life. Jacob Steketee was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 22, 1873, a son of John and Catherine (Vander Boegh) Steketee, and a grandson of Jan and Maria (Franje) Steketee. Jan Steketee was a dyke-builder in the employ of the Dutch government in the Netherlands, where he was born, April 17, 1803, and in that

Hosted by Google

country was married, his wife having been born there, Aug. 18, 1812. With their children they left their native land April 6, 1847, and after a long and perilous voyage arrived in the United States and at once made their way to Ottawa county, Michigan, at Zeeland. He became a substantial citizen of that community and was the founder of the village of Zeeland, which he named in honor of the village which he had left in his native country. In his later years he moved to Holland, Mich., and there both he and his wife passed away, well advanced in years and possessed of the respect and esteem of the people of their community. They were the parents of ten children, as follows: Cornelius, John and Paul, deceased; George G., of Grand Rapids; Paulina, deceased; Janna, of near Jenison, Ottawa county, Michigan, widow of David DeVree; Andries, who died in 1917; Peter, deceased; and Pieternella and Bastian, residents of Holland, Mich. John Steketee was born Jan. 13, 1833, at Borssele, Province of Zeeland, Netherlands, and was fourteen years of age when brought to the United States. His education was secured in the schools of his native land, and he was first employed by a Mr. Scott, who kept a general store at Grandville, remaining about two years. About the close of 1849 or the early part of 1850 he came to Grand Rapids, a city in which he was destined to become one of the leading and most prominent citizens. For a time he was a laborer, accepting whatever honorable employment presented itself, but later turned his attention to farming by the month, in Paris township, Kent county. Thus he worked until able to enter upon a career of his own, when he took up forty acres of land from the government, in Georgetown township, Ottawa county, but after clearing and disposing of it, returned to Paris township, and finally again made his home at Grand Rapids. Here he clerked for a time for Kirtland & Miller, which firm was operating a grocery, and began to become interested in public affairs. He secured the appointment as city poor-master, which office he held for several years, and from 1872 to 1876 served in the capacity of deputy sheriff of Kent county. All this time he had been investing his means in realty, having a firm conviction that this part of the country was to witness a great rise in land values, and his faith was eventually vindicated. In 1877 Mr. Steketee embarked in the real estate and loan business, and in this enterprise continued during the remainder of his commercial career, meeting with a splendid success and building up a large business. He was the medium through which some of the largest deals in the history of the city during his career were consummated, his knowledge of values being remarkable, his sagacity and business judgment of a high character and his reputation and standing in business circles of the best. In 1895 he retired from active pursuits and turned the responsibilities of his enterprise over to the capable and willing shoulders of his sons. A Republican in his political views, he was one of the active and prominent members of his party at Grand Rapids. For eleven years he was supervisor of the old First ward, and under the administration of President Benjamin Harrison was appointed internal revenue collector and held that office four years. About 1885 he was appointed vice-consul for the Netherlands for Michigan, and so capably and tactfully discharged the duties of that office that he was retained therein up to the time of his death, June 1, 1900.

Hosted by Google

He was a faithful member of the Dutch Reformed church and was fraternally connected with the Masons, holding membership in Grand River Lodge No. 34. Mr. Steketee married Catherine Vander Boegh, who was born Nov. 7, 1833, at Kandzand, Province of Zeeland, Netherlands, and died at Grand Rapids, May 9, 1915, and they became the parents of the following children: Maria, who is the widow of Gysbert Wieland and resides at Grand Rapids; John M., now of Berlin, Ottawa county; Pauline C., wife of Bartil A. Beneker, of Grand Rapids; Ella, deceased wife of A. J. Wilmers; Janna, deceased wife of John Van Donmelen; Cornelia, wife of Dr. Henry Hulst, of Grand Rapids; Catherine, unmarried; Paul, who died as a boy, and Jacob. Jacob Steketee received good educational advantages in his youth, first attending the graded schools of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids High School, and subsequently pursuing a legal course at the University of Michigan, in which institution he was graduated with the class of 1895 with his degree. He was admitted to the bar and had built up a good practice by the time his father died, when he was appointed vice-consul. In 1912 he was appointed consul for the Netherlands for Michigan and Minnesota. Mr. Steketee's brother, John M., had entered their father's real estate business in 1890, and when the elder man retired, in 1895, he turned the business over to his sons, who then carried it on with much success until Sept. 1, 1915, when John M. retired from the business. Jacob Steketee bears an excellent reputation in both business and professional circles, and in his official position displays the qualities of diplomacy and executive force necessary for the discharge of his responsible and often delicate duties. He is a Republican in politics and in Masonry belongs to the Blue Lodge, Chapter, Commandery and Consistory, and is also a Shriner. Consul Steketee was married Nov. 7, 1895, to Miss Frances M. Wallder, daughter of Frank and Anna (Bengtson) Wallder, and they have three children: John, born Sept. 28, 1897; Frank W., April 26, 1900; and Jacob, Jr., July 1, 1906.

Paul Steketee.—Among the earlier generation of Grand Rapids business men whose names are deserving of special mention for what they achieved in their several fields, is Paul Steketee, founder of the firm of Paul Steketee & Sons. His career was an exemplification of typical ambitious manhood, and he was accorded a place among the men whose activities served to establish the prestige of Grand Rapids as a commercial center. The Steketees are one of the oldest and most prominent families of Grand Rapids, Jan Steketee having come to the United States from Holland with his eleven children, in 1847, and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Zeeland, Ottawa county, Michigan. Paul Steketee, son of Jan, was born in Holland, Feb. 24, 1834, and was thirteen years of age when he came to the United States, his youth being passed on the farm, while his education was completed in the public schools. He remained on the home farm, assisting his father and brothers until 1848, when he came to Grand Rapids and accepted such employment as was offered to a youth of ambition and industry, John Kendall being his employer for eight years. Mr. Steketee always worked with the idea of one day entering business on his own account, and this goal was reached, in 1862, when, with John H. Doornink, he started a small store which furnished the nucleus for the large and important business of today.

Hosted by Google

Under the energetic management of the partners, the little business gradually increased, attracting more and more trade, and finally became an enterprise of some size and importance. In 1872 Mr. Steketee bought Mr. Doornink's interests and removed his stock to Holland, Mich., where he was associated with his brother, Andrew, for six years. In 1878, however, he again came to Grand Rapids, and here, with his sons, John J. and Paul J., founded the firm of Paul Steketee & Sons. Later his other sons, Peter P. and Daniel, were admitted to partnership. There was also a daughter, Nellie. Paul Steketee continued to be identified with this enterprise during the remainder of his life, and established a splendid record in commercial circles, being a man who won public confidence and business prominence through straightforward and manly dealing with his fellows in all the avenues of life's endeavor. Peter P. Steketee, one of the sons, who assisted in the building up of this leading business establishment, inherited many of his father's fine abilities and sterling qualities of character, and succeeded in not only maintaining the family name for honesty and integrity, but in adding to the importance of the business. He is given extended mention on a succeeding page of this volume, and his sons, Paul F. and Harold, have succeeded him in the business of Paul Steketee & Sons. This establishment now employs from 250 to 300 people, and occupies one of the large structures of the city, with about 110,000 square feet of floor space. The business done is the outfitting of women and children, and the handling of men's furnishings, with dry goods and other departments, including shoes, coats and suits, millinery, furs, rugs, carpets and draperies, underwear and corsets and knit goods. Paul Frederick Steketee was given a good educational training, attending the Central High School and the University of Michigan, in which latter he was graduated in 1903, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Following the family custom, he began his business career with the house founded by his grandfather, with which he has since been connected. He learned the business from the bottom and has gradually advanced himself through showing real ability and mastery of the details pertaining to the management of the store. He came into a business already established, but has been compelled to display acumen and judgment in gaining advancement and to work energetically in maintaining the high standards of the business with which he is connected. He is a Republican, but not a politician. As a business man, he is energetic in the work of the Rotary club and the Association of Commerce, and he belongs also to the Peninsular and O-Wash-ta-nong clubs and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. His religious connection is with the Westminster Presbyterian church, of which he is a trustee. Mr. Steketee was married Jan. 28, 1908, to Sallie, daughter of William Campbell and Julia (Jackson) Hall, of Brazil, Ind. Two children have been born of this union—Paul Frederick, Jr., and Campbell Hall. Harold A. Steketee, brother of Paul Frederick Steketee, and son of Peter P. and Minnie (DeGraaf) Steketee, is another of the energetic business men of the Furniture City who are rapidly coming to the front in commercial circles. He was born at Grand Rapids, Feb. 15, 1887, and received his education and training in this city, being a graduate of Central High School, class of 1905, and of the University of Michigan, Bachelor of Arts, class of 1909. Immedi-

Hosted by Google

ately following his college career, he began his business training in the establishment of his father and is now a member of the firm. He possesses the business talents the possession of which has given the family such high standing in commercial circles, has gained the recognition of his associates as a progressive and able manager, and is always ready to assist in movements making for betterment and progression, being an active member of the Association of Commerce and the Rotary club. He also belongs to the O-Wash-ta-nong and Peninsular clubs and the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, is a Republican in his political preferences, and holds membership in the Westminster Presbyterian church.

Peter P. Steketee.—During a long, active and successful career, the late Peter P. Steketee was identified with the commercial interests of the city of Grand Rapids, having various interests, but being more particularly connected with the old and well-known firm of Paul Steketee & Sons. From the time he left business college he was engaged in assisting to build up and develop this enterprise and his persistent and effective effort had much to do with placing the concern upon a foundation of solidity and in placing it among the leading establishments of the Furniture City. Mr. Steketee belonged to one of the oldest and best-known families of Kent county, the founders of the community at Zeeland. He was born at Grand Rapids, Oct. 25, 1857, a son of Paul and Nellie (Munsen(Steketee, natives of the Netherlands, who came to the United States in 1847 and settled on a farm at what is now Zeeland. There Paul Steketee was engaged in farming for several years, but eventually came to Grand Rapids, where he secured employment in the dry goods store of Mr. Kendall. He thoroughly mastered the business in all its details, and finally established himself in business as founder of what subsequently became and still is the firm of Paul Steketee & Sons. Peter P. Steketee received his early education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, following which he prepared himself for a commercial career by taking a course in the Swensberg Business College in this city. His first experience as a business man was gained in his father's store as a clerk, and when he had attained years of maturity he was admitted to the firm. The greater part of his life was passed in giving of his best energies to this business, and while, as noted, he had other interests, his first thoughts were for the family house. In business circles Mr. Steketee was recognized as a man of superior ability, thoroughly informed in his department of commerce, and a shrewd, far-sighted merchant who was alive to all the opportunities and possibilities of trade. As has been characteristic of all bearing the name, his integrity was unquestioned, and he never in his transactions sought to take an unfair advantage of a business adversary. While his death occurred nearly eight years ago, Jan. 22, 1911, his memory is still held in the hearts of his business associates, who had come to depend upon him in many cases for sound counsel and advice, and who valued his friendship and confidence. Mr. Steketee was one of the active members of the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. He was a Republican, but never sought public or political honors, preferring to devote himself to business matters and to show his good citizenship by a public-spirited support of progressive civic and other movements. Long a regular attendant of the West-

Hosted by Google

minster Presbyterian church, he was serving as a trustee thereof at the time of his demise. Mr. Steketee was married May 14, 1879, at Grand Rapids, to Minnie, daughter of Garrett and Helen De Graaf, of this city. Of this union were born six children, as follows: Paul Frederick, of Grand Rapids, a member of the firm of Paul Steketee & Sons; Helen, who resides with her mother at the family home, at No. 10 Terrace avenue; Nella, wife of B. T. Warwick, of Kansas City, Mo.; Harold Arthur, of Grand Rapids; Ruth Marion, wife of Delano F. Douglas, of Brookline, Mass.; and Louise A., wife of Isaac Spaulding Keeler, of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Steketee, who survives her husband, was born at Grand Rapids and educated in the public schools. Her parents, born in the Netherlands, came to the United States at the same time as did the Steketees, in 1847, and first located at Buffalo, N. Y., where Mr. De Graaf was engaged in contracting. On coming to Grand Rapids, he embarked in business as a manufacturer, and continued to be identified with that line of commercial endeavor until his death, in March, 1895, Mrs. De Graaf having passed away May 4, 1894. They were members of the Fifth Reformed church, in which Mr. De Graaf was an elder, and in political matters he always supported the Republican ticket from the time of the birth of that party. There were four children in the family: John, a resident of Seattle, Wash.; Garret H., a resident of Grand Rapids; Richard, engaged in business at Kalamazoo, Mich.; and Minnie, who became Mrs. Steketee.

Sidney F. Stevens.—To mention the hardware trade of the past or present in Grand Rapids without mentioning the name of Sidney F. Stevens would be scarcely possible, so important has he been for years in the development of this line of industry. Practically his entire career has been devoted to the trade, and at this time he is vice-president of the firm of Foster, Stevens & Company, one of the oldest establishments of Grand Rapids as well as one of the leaders in its field. Mr. Stevens was born at Lynchburg, Va., July 7, 1847, and was seven years of age when he came with his father to Grand Rapids, here securing his education in the public schools. During the first ten years of his business experience he traveled on the road between different points in Michigan and adjoining states, but finally settled permanently at the Furniture City and became identified with the hardware business which had been founded by his uncle, Wilder D. Foster. While the greater part of his attention and energies have been given to the building up of the business of which he is now first vice-president, like other vigorous and energetic men of the city he has other interests, and is a director of the Fourth National Bank. In political adherence he is a Republican. Mr. Stevens has not sought personal preferment in the line of public offices, but feels that it is every citizen's duty to accept certain responsibilities, and for five years served very acceptably as a member of the board of police and fire commissioners. He attends Grace church. Mr. Stevens was married Dec. 21, 1881, to Fredrika, daughter of Frederick and Mary (Dougherty) De Lano, of Rochester, N. Y., and they became the parents of two children—Sidney and De Lano, both deceased.

Earl R. Stewart.—It is an especial pleasure for the biographer contributing to a work devoted to the history of Kent county and to a delineation of the citizens who have assisted in its progress to be able

Hosted by Google

to present the substantial record of a native son, whose grandparents were, moreover, of the true pioneer stock who accomplished their part in starting the county on its great journey of adventure and accomplishment. Earl R. Stewart, of Grand Rapids, widely known in legal and military circles, was born on a farm in Byron township, Kent county, Michigan, Oct. 5, 1872, son of Charles R. and Alta M. (Sadler) Stewart. His great-grandfather was William Stewart, a native of Scotland, who came with his wife from that country to the United States in the year 1808, and it was while the family was still on the Atlantic, four days' journey from port, that James Stewart, grandfather of Earl R., was born. James Stewart grew to manhood in New York and continued to make that state his home, following for the greater part the trade of shoemaker, until about December, 1842, when he came to Michigan to seek his fortune. His first location was at Grandville, where he spent a short time at the business of cobbling, but later turned his attention to farming in Kent county and passed the rest of his life in Wyoming township, where he died in 1866, at the age of fifty-eight years. He and Mrs. Stewart were the parents of three children: Mary, deceased; Charles R., and Anna, wife of John Dider, of Kansas City, Mo. Charles R. Stewart was born on the home farm in Wyoming township and received his education in the public schools. He was reared to the pursuits of agriculture and was so engaged when the Civil war came on. In the Fall of 1864 he enlisted in Company I, First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, with which body he served until the close of hostilities, taking part in a number of engagements and participating in the engineering work that made possible Sherman's famous march to the sea. When his military career was finished he returned to Wyoming township and again engaged in farming, in which he won a full measure of success. About the year 1890 he retired from these labors and entered the service of several electric companies as an engineer and mechanic, and was also employed by the city of Grand Rapids. In 1908 he again retired, but only for a short time, as his energetic nature would not allow him to remain idle, and he entered the employ of the Macey Company, with which concern he was identified at the time of his death, Sept. 7, 1915. A Republican in politics, Mr. Stewart was considered one of the strong men of his party in Kent county and at various times was called to public office, being treasurer and school director in Byron township. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic for many years and one of its most valued and popular comrades, and at the time of his death was commander of the Grand Rapids Post. His fraternal connection was with the Odd Fellows and his religious faith that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mrs. Stewart, who survives her husband and resides at Grand Rapids, is a native of Dover, Ohio. She and Mr. Stewart were the parents of three children: Earl R., of this notice; Alice T., who makes her home with her mother; and Virginia M., wife of L. F. Buchsieb, of Chicago. The boyhood of Earl R. Stewart was passed on the home farm in Byron township, where he attended the district schools, but it was not his intention to follow a rural life, and his education was further advanced by attendance at the Grand Rapids High School. This was followed by a course at the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated in 1900, with the degree of

Hosted by Google

Bachelor of Laws, and in that year he began practice at Grand Rapids in the office of Butterfield & Keeney. Two years later he became circuit court commissioner for Kent county, and when his two terms were ended he engaged in practice alone and has since continued, his offices at present being located in the Houseman building. Mr. Stewart is a member of the Kent County Bar Association and has an excellent standing in his profession. His success as a lawyer has been won solely through merit and his clientele now represents some of the leading interests of the Furniture City. Mr. Stewart is a Mason, an Odd Fellow and a Pythian Knight, belongs to the Association of Commerce, and is a member of the University club. His military record extends over a period of more than a quarter of a century, beginning April 27, 1891, when he enlisted as a private in Company B, Second Michigan National Guard, in which organization he won steady promotion until he was commissioned second lieutenant, Aug. 19, 1899. He received his captain's commission Sept. 26 of the same year, and Aug. 5, 1905, was commissioned major. In the Spanish-American war he was mustered into the volunteer service as sergeant-major of the Thirty-second Michigan infantry and served until the Fall of 1898, when the regiment was mustered out of the service. In 1916, when American troops saw service on the Mexican border, he was major of the Michigan regiment, the Thirty-second. Major Stewart was married May 11, 1903, to Miss Louise P., daughter of Louis J. and Martha (Arndt) Buchsieb, of Grand Rapids, and they have had three children: James H., Earl L., deceased, and Martha A.

Frank A. Stone.—The life of Frank A. Stone, of Grand Rapids, has been an expression of diversified operations in various fields of activity, of constant and unremitting industry, and of the final attainment of a position among the substantial business men of his native city. When he started out in life it was as a youth with only the advantages to be gained by a common school education, but he possessed underlying ability and a determination to succeed, and with these he has fought his way honorably to his present standing as president and treasurer of one of the city's prominent concerns, the Clipper Belt Lacer Company. Mr. Stone was born in the city of Grand Rapids, Feb. 19, 1854, son of Henry G. and Nancy (Barnes) Stone, the former a native of Weatherfield, N. Y., and the latter of Stowe, Vt. His father came to Grand Rapids as one of the city's earliest settlers, here establishing the first foundry and building the first traction engine. He handled and manufactured agricultural implements under the firm name of Dean & Stone, and continued to be connected with this line of endeavor through the remaining years of his life. He and Mrs. Stone, who also passed away many years ago, were the parents of nine children: Albert, Ella and Julia; Frank A., Anna, James B., John W., Ruth P., and May, wife of W. P. Manning, of Albion, Mich., all deceased but the last named, and the subject of this sketch. On completing his schooling, at the age of seventeen years, Frank A. Stone secured his first employment as a farm hand, but soon gave up agricultural pursuits for railroad work, and for three years was in the service of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railroad. For one year he was employed in the crockery store of M. R. Bissell, and then transferred his services to the firm of H. Leonard & Sons, by whom he was employed for nineteen years.

Hosted by Google

During the next fifteen years he was engaged by the Michigan Stove & Caster Company, and in 1907 inaugurated the movement that resulted in the formation of the Clipper Belt Lacer Company. Mr. Stone at that time received from his brother, J. B. Stone, then a resident of London, England, the patent for the ingenious device known as the Clipper Belt Lacer, and the company for the manufacture and sale of this article first bore the name of J. B. Stone & Company. In 1908 Charles P. Foote came into the company, which, in 1910, started to build its own plant at the corner of Commerce and Louis streets. The company was incorporated for $12,000, with the following officers: Charles P. Foote, president; John E. More, vice-president, and Frank A. Stone, secretary and treasurer. The stock was later increased to $20,000, and at the start of the year 1918 the capital stock had reached $500,000. The new plant was erected in 1912, being occupied June 20 of that year, and the new offices of the concern were occupied July 1, 1916. There are now three buildings, the dimensions of which are 100x300 feet, 80x80 feet and one 80x60 feet, the second being two stories in height. More than 100 skilled employes are employed in the plant and there are five salesmen on the road for this article, which is sold all over the world, with a European office maintained at London, England. Mr. Stone is a man of sound business ability and cool, keen judgment, absolutely reliable and possessed of the full confidence of his associates. He is a Republican in his political tendencies, and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church, while his social connections are with the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Owashtanong and Grandview Automobile clubs. He is a contributor to many worthy movements and is accounted a public-spirited citizen and business man of progressive views. Mr. Stone was married Jan. 11, 1877, to Miss India E. Colestock, of Grand Rapids, and they have two children: Helena S., a solo harpist and composer, at one time a member of the famous Theodore Thomas Orchestra, and a woman with a world-wide reputation. She is the wife of Lloyd R. Torgerson, of Chicago, Ill., and has a son, Frank Stone. The other child of Mr. and Mrs. Stone is Franc, who resides at home.

Ernest A. Stowe.—It is the consensus of opinion among his associates and contemporaries in the field of journalism that Ernest A. Stowe is one of the most forceful, able and original figures in his line of endeavor today. His career has been characterized by the attainment of success such as comes to but few; yet what he probably values above material things are the esteem and confidence of his fellowmen. His life has been one of intense and uninterrupted activity; his achievements have been astounding in their volume; yet he has ever found time to hold out an assisting hand to the men just entering upon their careers, and men and publications now prominent in journalism owe all the success they have gained to his kindly and freely given aid and counsel. It would transcend the limits necessarily assigned to this sketch to enumerate the various incidents and experiences of such a busy life; nor is it possible to do justice to such a great and forceful personality and big-hearted nature. It must be sufficient to note the salient points in a career marked by rapid and successive advance from an apprenticeship to the printer's trade to the directorship of one of the leading journals of the country, the

Hosted by Google

Michigan Tradesman. Mr. Stowe is of English and French descent on his father's side of the family, while his mother was of German and Holland stock. His father was the pioneer book-seller of Hudson, Mich., where his store was the rendezvous of Will M. Carleton, the poet who made himself famous by writing "Over the Hills to the Poorhouse," and it was in that town that Ernest A. Stowe was born, March 16, 1859. He was taken by his parents to Lamont, Mich., when he was eleven years old, and there attended school during the winter months. At that tender age he showed his industry and ambition by peddling popcorn and apples on the Grand river steamboats in the summer seasons. When he was thirteen years old the family removed to Reed City, where the youth sought and obtained employment in the general store of D. M. McClellan, with whom he remained until 1874, when he entered upon his real career. This was as an apprentice to the printer's trade in the office of the Big Rapids Magnet, and on the completion of his apprenticeship, in 1877, he came to Grand Rapids, here securing employment as reporter on the Daily Times. His salary was $6 per week, although he could have earned $15 a week working at his trade, which he had acquired solely as a stepping-stone to something better. "In fact," writes a contemporary biographer, "he had in mind at this time—although he was only eighteen years of age—the establishment of a business of his own which would require an accurate and intimate knowledge of the various branches of the publishing business. His experience for the next six years was therefore of a preparatory character for what was to come. He subsequently became city editor of the Daily Democrat, advertising manager of the Daily Leader and news-editor of the Daily Eagle. In addition to supporting his mother and younger brother, he succeeded in saving in these six years the sum of $1,700 with which he launched the Michigan Tradesman, in the Fall of 1883. It would hardly be within the realm of truth to say that this publication was a success from the start, because many dark days and many trying times were experienced before the journal was firmly established on a substantial basis. It was not unusual in the early days of the venture for Mr. Stowe to work eighteen hours a day, and there is a tradition in Grand Rapids that in the trying times of 1883 and 1884 his light was never extinguished and that he could be found at his desk any hour of the day or night. Such application, when accompanied by tact and foresight, could produce but one result, and the Michigan Tradesman has long been regarded as the largest, strongest and most ably edited and influential journal of its class in the United States." When it was founded by Mr. Stowe, in September, 1883, the journal had its headquarters at No. 49 Lyon street, in the Eagle building, and there continued until 1890, in which year it was incorporated for $50,000, as the Tradesman Company, with the following officers: E. A. Stowe, president; Henry Idema, vice-president; and W. N. Fuller, secretary and treasurer. In 1917 Mr. Idema retired and was succeeded by Sidney F. Stevens, the present vice-president. The publication covers the entire Middle West, with a great subscription list, and employs fifty-six people. When the company was first incorporated, it conducted a job printing plant in connection with the regular newspaper business, subsequently added wood engraving, later established a process engraving department, and now deals as a wholesaler in pa-

Hosted by Google

per and inks. To again quote: "In the early days of the Tradesman, Mr. Stowe conceived the idea of unifying the retail trade of the state by means of local organizations and a state organization. At his own expense and at the sacrifice of much valuable time, he organized 100 local associations of merchants and business men and subsequently assisted in the work of forming the Michigan Business Men's Association, which enjoyed a successful career for several years and left an indelible impress on the state. It curtailed credits, secured the enactment of the uniform fire insurance policy—the standard form which has never been changed—brought about a degree of harmony and good will which has increased with the years and did valuable service in paving the way for the boards of trade and the associations of commerce which are now in evidence in nearly every growing town and progressive city. Mr. Stowe is interested financially in many different corporations, mostly of an industrial and public utility character. He has assisted in the financing of many enterprises and takes great delight in getting behind a weak institution and staying by it until it reaches a paying basis. Believing that retail stores can be made to serve the public more acceptably than they have in the past and also that they afford ample opportunity for the elevation of the trade, while yielding reasonable profits to those who are instrumental in bringing about an improvement, Mr. Stowe began some years ago to make substantial investments in retail stores located in growing towns, thus enabling him to keep in even closer touch with the retail trade than he had in the past. Mr. Stowe stands well in his home town. He is first and foremost in every movement for the public good and gives liberally of his time and money to assist such charitable and philanthropic projects as meet his approval. As chairman of the industrial committee of the Board of Trade two years he assisted in securing six new manufacturing industries, all but one of which proved successful. As president of the Board of Trade two years he carried into the work all the earnestness at his command and made his administration notable for the results accomplished. Personally, Mr. Stowe is an enthusiast of the enthusiasts. Whatever he undertakes to do he enters into with all his might. In common with most successful men, he likes to have his own way; but he is never unduly tenacious of his own opinions, and, if he cannot have things his own way, he does not sulk and bolt—he stays by to the end in the expectation of bringing his colleagues around as near as possible to his way of thinking. He is modest in his methods, unassuming in his actions and invariably gives due deference to the ideas of others. He insists on according the same rights to others which he claims for himself and he has the Anglo-Saxon love of fair play which prevents his doing a mean thing or taking an unfair advantage. The career of Mr. Stowe demonstrates conclusively what any man can accomplish in this world, no matter how humble may be his origin or how he may be hampered by environment, where he is actuated by high motives, possesses the necessary ambition and is willing to pay the price of success—hard work."

William Sweat.—An instance of the call of the country rising superior to the attractions of the city is found in the career of William Sweat, who in 1911 returned to agricultural pursuits after many years spent in other lines of endeavor. Mr. Sweat's earliest experi-

Hosted by Google

ences were in the vocation of farming, but like many other young men entering upon their careers he answered the lure of the city and for a long period gave his attention to work which carried him into the large centers of population, only in the end to find his greatest satisfaction and profit amid rural surroundings. He is now the owner of a well-cultivated and productive farm located in Nelson township, his long separation from the farming industry seeming in no way to have affected his success as a tiller of the soil. Mr. Sweat was born in Genesee county, Michigan, son of Orrin and Jane (Groom) Sweat, natives of Ohio. His father followed farming for some years in the Buckeye State before coming to Michigan, when he settled first on a new property in Genesee county and subsequently removed to Saginaw county, where his declining years were passed. He was a man of industry, and was known for his integrity and straightforward dealing with his fellow-men. There were three children in the family: Flora, Alfred and William. William Sweat received his education in the district schools of Genesee and Saginaw counties and was brought up as a farmer's son, but was ambitious to try his skill in the city and accepted a position with a mercantile establishment when he left the parental roof. For some years he traveled as a salesman for several houses, and then entered the employ of the United States government as a foreman of construction in the building of bridges and other structures for the federal service. This work occupied his attention for some time, but in 1911 he gave up a mode of life that kept him constantly moving from place to place with no fixed point of residence, and bought a farm in Minnesota. After several years he disposed of that property and returned to the state of his birth, locating permanently on a farm in Nelson township, not far from the thriving village of Sand Lake. Mr. Sweat has since been busily engaged in his farming operations and in the installing of new equipment, improvements, appliances and buildings upon his farm, which he is making one of the model ones of the locality. His activities are conducted upon a large scale and his good business management has enabled him to make a decided success of his operations. Since coming to his present locality Mr. Sweat has built up a reputation for industry, integrity and good citizenship and has made and still holds many friends. He married Hannah M., daughter of Peter and Mary Hoover, Mr. Hoover having been a miner and farmer. Of this union have been born two children: Tressa, who during the past four years has been a stenographer in the office of H. L. Cain, at Cedar Springs, and Glenn, who is a resident of Montana, where he is engaged in agricultural operations. Mr. Sweat is a Republican, but has never cared for public office.

Fred Swift.—The call of the soil speaks loudly to some men, and there are to be found in Kent county many who have experimented for years in other fields of endeavor only to finally return to the farm and to find thereon their greatest reward and contentment. In this class is found Fred Swift, of Solon township. A product of the farm, early in life, like many young men who have the wanderlust, he was not satisfied to be limited to the occupations of the farmer's life, but must needs see a part of the world and try his hand at other forms of labor. However, when he finally settled down, he chose Solon township as his place of residence and here has become one of the

Hosted by Google

substantial agriculturists of this fertile part of Kent county. Fred Swift was born on a farm in Ulster county, New York, and received a common school education. He was brought up to the work of a farmer by parents who endeavored to train him in regard to the value and dignity of labor, but when he was twenty-one years old he severed home ties, left the parental roof and set out for Jackson county, Michigan. There for a time he worked at odd jobs. Any employment that he could find to do he tried his hand at, but soon came to a realization of the fact that this kind of procedure was taking him no place, and for a time he settled down as clerk in a general store. Again he felt the need to travel, however, and, resigning his position, he worked his way to the city of Logansport, Ind. As the spirit moved him, he would go from place to place, always looking for a better position and not remaining long in any one community. Eventually, he drifted back to Michigan, took up his residence in Kent county and settled down to farming, a vocation in which he has since been engaged with marked success. Mr. Swift's farm is located in section 11, Solon township, and he has a well-cultivated property, with good buildings and up-to-date equipment. He is unmarried. In politics he is a Republican, but has not aspired to any public office. As a citizen he is accounted public-spirited, and his reputation for integrity in his business transactions is an excellent one.

Moses Taggart was born at Wilson, Niagara county, New York, son of Rufus Taggart, a general business man and farmer by occupation. His early education was secured in the district school at Wilson, following which he attended the Wilson Collegiate Institute, where he prepared for college. When the Civil war came on his two elder brothers—Rufus and John—left home to enter the army, and this disarranged the plans of the eighteen-year-old youth (he was born Feb. 27, 1843), who returned to the home farm and engaged in its cultivation until he was twenty-two years of age. He then entered the University of Michigan and graduated in the law department, in 1867, following which he went to Batavia, Genesee county, New York, and entered the law office of an uncle, Moses Taggart, ex-justice of the Supreme Court and of the Court of Appeals of New York. He was admitted to the bar the same year and soon thereafter went to Lockport, N. Y., where he practiced until 1868. In that year Mr. Taggart came to Michigan and settled at Cedar Springs, but five months later changed his field of practice to Grand Rapids, where, in 1870, he formed a partnership with Hon. B. A. Harlan, who was at the time judge of the Probate Court. This association continued until 1872, when Mr. Taggart took as his partner Eugene E. Allen, the firm existing until 1875. Mr. Allen withdrew in that year and the firm of Taggart & Wolcott was formed, this continuing for many years. In 1884 Mr. Taggart, who had become a prominent figure in the Republican party and in public life, was elected attorney-general of the state, serving in that capacity for four years. In 1901 he was made city attorney of Grand Rapids, and this office he held until the time of his death, which occurred at Grand Rapids, Aug. 20, 1914. He was a member of the Westminster Presbyterian church, as is also his widow, who survives him and resides at Grand Rapids. Mr. Taggart was married Oct. 17, 1872, to Miss Elizabeth Ganson, daughter of the late Cornelius N. Ganson, a retired banker of Ypsilanti, Mich.,

Hosted by Google

and of this union were born five children: Ganson; Ralph C., of Albany, N. Y.; James M., of New York City; and Anne V. and Van C., the former of Grand Rapids and the latter of Chicago. Ganson Taggart was graduated in the law department of the University of Michigan, in 1896, and was admitted to the bar at Grand Rapids, where he has since continued to practice. He is now city attorney and a member of the firm of Taggart & Kingston.

Charles E. Tarte.—One of the favorite plots which fiction writers delight to take for their subject is that which depicts the struggles of the poor boy who starts in a humble position with some great enterprise and through his grit and determination works his way to its head. That this is purely a matter of fiction, however, is not true, for this is frequently discovered happening in real life, and a case in point is found in the career of Charles E. Tarte, general manager of the Citizens' Telephone Company, of Grand Rapids. Mr. Tarte was born at Muskegon, Mich., Oct. 31, 1869, son of Joseph and Adaline (Graves) Tarte. His father, a native of Canada, came to Grand Rapids among the first French settlers of this city, but subsequently moved to Muskegon and followed the vocation of ship carpenter until his death, in 1871, when his son was but thirteen months old. Mrs. Tarte is also deceased. Charles E. Tarte was educated in the parochial and high schools of Muskegon, and at the age of twelve years secured employment as a telegraph messenger. When he was only thirteen years old he was made a telephone operator on the night shift and continued in this capacity for four years, and in 1889 came to Grand Rapids with the Michigan State Telephone Company, a part of the Bell system. Three years later he went to St. Paul, Minn., with the Northwestern Telephone Company, also a part of that system, and in February, 1893, returned to the Michigan Telephone Company, being stationed at Detroit. In this time his ability, fidelity and energy had won him promotion, and when he returned to Grand Rapids, in 1896, it was as traffic manager and wire chief for the Citizens' Telephone Company, of which he has since been made general manager. The foregoing is a brief outline of the career of an individual who has won his own way in his chosen field of endeavor, steadily pressing forward and gaining advancement by reason of merit rather than by any help from influential sources. Having started at the bottom of the ladder and laboriously climbed every round, he is thoroughly familiar with every department of the telephone business, and this fact has enabled him to give the patrons of the company the best service that can be given by an important public institution of this nature. Mr. Tarte is an independent Republican. He belongs to St. Andrews' Catholic church and to the Knights of Columbus, the O-Wash-ta-nong, Peninsular and Highlands Country clubs, the Association of Commerce and the Grand Rapids Rotary club. He was married May 17, 1897, to Maude, daughter of Joseph Uebelhoer, of Detroit, Mich., and they have four children: Charles Edward, Louis E., Elizabeth and Robert J., all at home.

William E. Teeple.—An arduous and hazardous task confronted those venturesome and hardy men who forsook the comforts and security of their homes in the Eastern states in the early days and penetrated the untrodden wilds of the West to establish for themselves there new homes. None but themselves and their children can real-

Hosted by Google

ize, in the faintest degree, the difficulties with which they contended, the perils to which they were exposed, and the hardships which they endured. Fortunately they were animated by an indomitable spirit and maintained by inflexible resolution, and patiently, perseveringly and steadfastly accomplished their mission, leaving to posterity the fruits of their enterprise in an advanced civilization. The memory of the virtues of these men, as well as of their worthy wives, has served as a high incentive in molding the lives of their children, some of whom still survive amid scenes of their childhood. Among these is found William E. Teeple, who is still carrying on agricultural operations on the farm, on section 18, Cascade township, which his father took up from the government when first coming to Kent county nearly three-quarters of a century ago. William E. Teeple was born on the farm which he now occupies, Feb. 18, 1855, son of George W. and Samantha (Cook) Teeple. His parents, natives of Pennsylvania, took up 145 acres of land when they settled in Cascade township, and continued to be engaged in caring for this property until within several years of their deaths, when they retired from active pursuits. At the time of their arrival this property was covered with timber, but this yielded to the efforts of Mr. Teeple, who was a persevering worker, ambitious and determined to succeed. When it was cleared, it was put under cultivation, and in later years yielded bountifully, repaying in its productiveness the years of toil spent upon it. Mr. Teeple, the elder, was an active party worker in the interests of Democracy and in the early days held a number of township offices. He was well thought of in business circles and had the esteem of a wide circle of acquaintances. His children were as follows: Albert B., Minerva and Oscar, deceased; Alfred, a resident of Grand Rapids; Marquis and Marion, twins, deceased; Elmer, who died young; Elmira and Elmina, twins, the former deceased and the latter wife of Charles S. Spaulding, of Harbor Springs, Mich.; Harriet, wife of Harold D. Sanford, a resident of North Dakota; and William E. William E. Teeple received his education in the district schools of Cascade township and was reared on the farm which he has always made his home. As a youth he worked as his father's assistant, later was paid a man's wages in the field, and finally, after his father's death, purchased the interests of the other heirs in the estate and became the owner of the property. He carries on general farming and stock-raising in a modern, scientific manner, and has been successful in both departments. At various times Mr. Teeple has added to the buildings and equipment of the farm, as well as to its acreage, and few country estates in the township present a better appearance. Politically Mr. Teeple is a Democrat, and on occasion has held school offices. He was married Jan. 8, 1887, to Ada O., daughter of Leman and Helen (Dennison) Chapel, of Ada, Mich., farming people of that community, and of this union have been born four children: Marie L., wife of Fred Cook, of Grand Rapids, and Mortimer G., Earl L. and Naida O., all at home. Mr. Teeple has lived a long, upright, industrious and useful life, and in the ripeness of his years is an object of sincere respect and cordial esteem on the part of his neighbors and many friends.

Lyndsey P. Thomas.—There can be no more desirable association in a business way than that existing when father and son are in

Hosted by Google

partnership, the elder man giving to the organization the benefit of his years of experience and a certain conservatism that works well with the spirit, energy and enthusiasm of the younger member of the concern. Kent county has a number of examples where father and son, working in close harmony, have been successful in the building of large commercial enterprises, and one of the best examples to be found is that existing in the firm of L. P. Thomas Company, dealers in wholesale produce and proprietors of an elevator at Lowell, this business being represented by Lyndsey P. Thomas and his son, Earl A. Thomas. Lyndsey P. Thomas was born March 29, 1852, in Cannon township, Kent county, Michigan, son of James and Elizabeth (Miller) Thomas, natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. The family was founded in Michigan in 1838, when they located as pioneers in Cannon township, and there continued to be engaged in farming until the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, May 27, 1880. At that time James Thomas retired from active pursuits and made his home with his son, Lyndsey P., until his death, March 17, 1897. There were nine children in the family: John, who died in July, 1915; Mrs. Margaret Provin, an eighty-two-year-old resident of Cannon township; Anna, who died in 1901; William, who died in 1870; James, a resident of Edmore, Mich.; Louis, who lives at Kendallville, Ind.; Mrs. Emma Hutchins, who died in 1916; Sarah Jane, who died young, and Lyndsey P. Of this family, John, James, William and Louis fought as Union soldiers in the Civil war. The education of Lyndsey P. Thomas was of a somewhat limited character, being confined to attendance at the sessions of the district school held in a little log house in the vicinity of his father's farm. When he entered upon his career he adopted farming as his vocation, and, being industrious and capable, accumulated a good property in Cannon township, on which he carried on operations until he was forty years old, and which he owned until 1915. Mr. Thomas came to Lowell in 1891, and here embarked in the manufacture of bean planters and harvesters, an enterprise which he carried on until 1896. In the meantime, in line with his business, he became interested in the wholesale produce trade, and in 1896 founded the present firm of L. P. Thomas Company, which handles all manner of produce, but principally beans, potatoes, wool and seeds. The concern owns its own elevator, located on the Pere Marquette railroad at Lowell. Few men are better known or more highly esteemed in business circles of Lowell, where Mr. Thomas has established a reputation for the strictest integrity and probity. In building up a business structure of stability and worth he has never stooped to questionable methods, nor has he ever allowed himself to take advantage of another's misfortune. He has been interested in the success of the Republican party and has never missed casting a vote in Kent county since attaining his majority. For forty years he has been a Mason and is now a member of Lowell Lodge No. 90, F. & A. M. While he is not a member of any church, he believes in the value of religion and has supported a number of worthy movements. Mr. Thomas was married Oct. 18, 1882, to Jennie, daughter of Lorenzo D. and Mercy (Baker) Hoag, natives of New York State who came to Michigan and passed the remaining years of their lives in farming in Cannon township. There were six children in the Hoag family: Myron B. and John, deceased;

Hosted by Google

Mrs. Thomas; Burtis and William, residents of California; and Eliza, of Marshall, Mich. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have two children: Earl A., and Ethel, who is the wife of Mr. Doyle, connected with the King Milling Company, of Lowell. Earl A. Thomas, junior member of the firm of L. P. Thomas Company and one of the most progressive and energetic business men of Lowell, was born Aug. 23, 1883, on his father's farm in Cannon township, and secured his education in the common schools and the Lowell High School. He was but thirteen years of age, and in his final year at the latter school, when his father engaged in his present business, and young Thomas gave up his studies in order that he might assist the elder man in the establishing of this firm upon a sound basis. He has been an important factor in building up the concern to its present large proportions and in extending its reputation far beyond the immediate limits of its community. Mr. Thomas is widely and favorably known in business circles of Lowell, where his associates have expressed their confidence in him by electing him to the office of vice-president of the Lowell Board of Trade, of which position he is the present incumbent. He has also been active in civic affairs and was formerly village treasurer and village trustee for several years, and he still takes a keen interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare, growth and advancement of Lowell and its people's interests. He is an active Republican, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is fraternally connected with Lowell Lodge No. 90 and Hooker Chapter No. 73 of the Masonic order, and Lowell Camp No. 115, Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Thomas was married Sept. 21, 1909, to Della, daughter of W. S. and Dora (Hildreth) Winegar. Mr. Winegar, originally a farmer of Vergennes township, Kent county, later came to Lowell and for nearly thirty years was successfully engaged in merchandising here. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are the parents of two children—Dora Jane, born Oct. 26, 1915, and Ethel Anne, born Nov. 25, 1917.

Coy J. Thompson is well known as one of the extensive farmers of Solon township and as a public-spirited citizen whose aid is never withheld from movements of a beneficial character. In the working out of his career, his honorable manner of conducting his affairs has gained him very creditable success, as well as standing among the substantial men of his community and confidence by the public in general. Mr. Thompson was born at Lamont, Ottawa county, Michigan, March 2, 1863, son of Volney and Catherine (Phillips) Thompson, both families being old and honored ones of this state. Volney Thompson was born at Pinkney, near Ann Arbor, Mich., and was a young man when he removed to the vicinity of Lamont. As a youth he had learned the trade of shoemaker, which he followed for some years, and then became a fruit-grower, a vocation in which he found success during a long period, and eventually entered the ministry, establishing the Wesleyan church at Solon Centre. He continued to be engaged in ministerial labors until he reached his seventieth year, at which time he retired from active work and from that time until his death, at the ripe age of eighty years, lived quietly in the enjoyment of the comforts which his long and eminently useful career had brought him. Reverend Thompson married Catherine Phillips, daughter of James and Catherine Phillips, of New York, who came to Michigan in the early days. Three children were born of this un-

Hosted by Google

ion. Coy J. Thompson was given no particular advantages in his youth, save for those accruing from attendance at the Lamont public schools, where he completed his education. However, he had been brought up to traits of honesty and habits of industry and thus entered upon his career with a proper appreciation of life's rewards and responsibilities, an advantage which assisted him over many of the rough places of his first few years of endeavor. His first employment was at lumbering, a business in which he rose to be foreman, and for a number of years he continued in this line, but eventually turned his attention, as do many lumbermen, to farming. He secured through purchase his present farm, a well-cultivated tract of land which lies in section 13, Solon township. Mr. Thompson furnishes gravel to the township for road purposes. He is one of the men of his locality who help in movements which his judgment tells him will be beneficial to the township, and in politics he is a stanch Republican. As a fraternalist he belongs to Cedar Springs Lodge No. 213, F. & A. M., and he and Mrs. Thompson are active in the Eastern Star work of the order. Mr. Thompson married Miss Eva Dunton, daughter of Reuben and Harriet Dunton, of Solon township, formerly well known farming people of this vicinity and highly respected, but now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the parents of a son, Volney, a graduate of the Cedar Springs High School, who spent a short time in Montana, but now resides at home, assisting his father, and awaiting his call to the colors for service in the United States National Army.

Myron Thompson.—A worthy exponent of modern methods in agricultural work, Myron Thompson, of Bowne township, has worked his way to well-earned success in a community in which the family name has been known for many years. He has passed his entire life upon the farm which he now owns, and in its cultivation and development he has sustained the reputation established by his pioneer father, who was one of the first to settle in this part of Kent county. Mr. Thompson was born on his present farm, Nov. 1, 1860, his parents being Henry and Sarah (Platt) Thompson, and the family being of Vermont origin. His father was born in Michigan and as a young man came as a pioneer to Bowne township, where he secured, for a start, forty acres of wild land, heavily timbered. This he subsequently sold and bought another farm of fifty acres, to which in later years he added an additional forty. General farming occupied his activities throughout his life, with the exception of three years when he was on Southern battlefields as a member of the Thirteenth Michigan infantry, in the Civil war, and ever after the close of that struggle he was an interested and popular member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He and Mrs. Thompson, who was a native of Ohio, were the parents of four children: Wilbur, of Bowne township; Myron; Etta, wife of M. Simpson, of Alto, Mich., and Frank, deceased. Myron Thompson attended the district schools of Bowne township, following which he became his father's assistant on the home farm, of which he became manager at the time of the elder man's retirement. When his father died he bought the farm from the estate, and to its cultivation he has since devoted himself continuously, although he has several outside interests, being identified as a stockholder with the Freeport and Alto elevators. He has installed numerous

Hosted by Google

improvements and has remodeled the residence and barn, and evidences of his good management and industry abound on every hand. Mr. Thompson has a high standing in the confidence of the people of the community, who have noted his progressiveness and integrity. He is a Republican in politics, has served in several school offices, and is at present acting as highway commissioner of his township. He was married April 2, 1889, to Viola Thomas, of Bowne township, whose parents are deceased. They have one son, Asahel.

Raymond Thompson.—During a long period of time Raymond Thompson was prominently identified with the agricultural industry in Kent county, but during more recent years he has spent a large part of his time in travel, his many years of industry having placed him in an independent position, in which he need consult only his own wishes and inclinations in regard to his occupation. He still makes his home at Cedar Springs, where he is well and favorably known, having for a number of years been the incumbent of various offices within the gift of his fellow-citizens. Mr. Thompson has the distinction of being a native son of Kent county, having been born and reared in Solon township, where his father, a substantial citizen, was the owner of a farm. When he was but thirteen years of age, Raymond Thompson began to contribute to his own support, and for this reason his education was somewhat neglected in his youth, being confined to irregular attendance at the district schools. However, in later years, realizing the value of an education, he gave much time to study, reading and observation, so that he obtained a good education, and this has of recent years been greatly supplemented by his travels, during which he has acquired knowledge that makes him one of the best informed men of his community. Mr. Thompson's first work was in the shingle mills of northern Kent county, and later, like many other young men of his day and circumstances, he became a worker in the lumber camps. Gradually he drifted into farming, and this vocation gave him much prosperity, as a result of his industry and good management of his affairs. For years Mr. Thompson had cherished a desire for travel, and when he retired from active pursuits he indulged this wish and has since made frequent trips to various points of interest in this country. Not alone in his native township and county, but wherever he has gone, he has gained and held friends, an agreeable disposition and a likable personality having attracted others to him. Mr. Thompson is a stanch Republican and on the ticket of that party has been elected to a number of township offices. His official public record is an excellent one and his service to his community and his fellow-citizens has been one well worthy of emulation. He was married Nov. 26, 1914, to Miss Hazel Sevey, who was born in Solon township, daughter of Lewis and Allie Dunton. They were natives of New York State and early in life settled in Solon township. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have a son, Park Raymond, born Sept. 30, 1916. Mrs. Thompson was a teacher of music for many years in the Kalamazoo Normal College.

George C. Thomson.—Still numbered among the younger members of the Grand Rapids legal fraternity, George C. Thomson has attained success in a city not lacking in men of high professional calibre. He was born at Cadillac, Mich., April 9, 1888, a son of Dr. A. J. and Annabelle (Campbell) Thomson. Dr. Thomson was edu-

Hosted by Google

cated at London College, Ontario, Canada, and at the University of Michigan, and after several years spent in practice at Howell, Mich., moved to Cadillac, where he followed his profession during the remainder of his life and attained a large practice and more than a local reputation as a man of skill and ability in his calling. After attending the graded schools of Cadillac and the Saginaw High School, George C. Thomson entered the University of Michigan, in the Fall of 1909. While he made high marks in his studies, he was never accused of being a grind, for in his freshman year he became a member of the freshman football team, and during his sophomore year made the varsity eleven, with which he played in 1910, 1911 and 1912, being captain of the famous team of the last-named year. Graduated with his degree in 1913, in that year he was admitted to the bar and immediately began practice in the office of the old and well-known law firm of Butterfield & Keeney, in order to secure the necessary legal experience before starting business for himself. He was connected with this concern until September, 1916, when he opened an office in the Michigan Trust building and commenced practice on his own account, and now enjoys a very successful general professional business and represents a number of prominent business firms and corporations. Mr. Thomson has thus far been too busy in establishing himself and in taking care of the duties of his clients to engage in public matters, but takes an interest in civic affairs and endeavors as a good citizen to assist in securing good officials and good laws. Mr. Thomson was married Jan. 5, 1915, to Miss Dorothy C., daughter of F. A. and Carrie (Cummer) Diggins, of Cadillac, Mich., and they have one daughter, Dorothy Anne.

Augustin D. Thorp, president of the village of Sand Lake, was born at Coldbrook, Ohio, Nov. 30, 1870, son of James and Wealthy (Potter) Thorp, natives of that place. They came to Kent county and settled at Sand Lake in 1879, and the father followed farming for a time, afterward devoting his attention to teaming. Both he and his wife are now deceased. They were members of the Adventist church, and he was a Republican in his political affiliations. They were the parents of three children: Revilla M., widow of S. H. Field and now a resident of Shelby, Ind.; Susanna, wife of Charles F. Bennett, of Belmont, Mich.; and Augustin D., whose name introduces this paragraph. Augustin D. Thorp attended the district school and at the age of nineteen years started in life for himself, engaging in railroad and lumber work. On May 16, 1898, he enlisted as a soldier in Company L, Thirty-third Michigan infantry, for service in the Spanish-American war, and was in the two days' fight at Santiago, Cuba. He was discharged from the service Jan. 1, 1899, and has since followed carpentering and contracting work. He was married at Sand Lake, April 28, 1895, to Miss Nora M., daughter of William and Mary Hart, then of Solon township, but now residents of the village of Grant. Mrs. Thorp is the eldest of five children born to these parents, the others being: Mabel, Fred, Lulu, and Otto. Mr. and Mrs. Thorp have three children: Vernon, who married Ella McClasky and is farming in Nelson township; Leota, a teacher in the Sand Lake schools, and Lester, at home. Mr. Thorp is serving his second term as president of the village of Sand Lake, and he has

Hosted by Google

served as township treasurer, two years, and also as member of the school board. He is a Republican in his political affiliations.

Frank Tisdel.—In every community there are to be found men who, by their prominent connection with affairs, the prosperity they have attained, or by reason of their long residence, have achieved prominence. Nearly forty years have passed since Frank Tisdel first came to the vicinity of his present home in Nelson township, and since that time he has been a prominent factor in agricultural affairs, in which he has gained his full meed of success. He was born in Grand Rapids township, Kent county, Michigan, Nov. 3, 1856, son of John S. Tisdel. His father was born in Steuben county, New York, Sept. 10, 1822, and being possessed of neither means nor influential friendships, was forced in his youth to work as a day laborer. This kind of work he followed until he reached the age of twenty-five years when, feeling that he wished to be independent and his own employer, he struck out for the West and, in 1847, reached Grand Rapids. He worked hard and saved his wages until he was able to invest in land of his own and for a time engaged in farming, but subsequently removed to Cedar Springs and embarked in the hotel business as the proprietor of the Cedar Springs House. This he conducted with some success for about five years, but eventually disposed of it and resumed farming and followed that occupation until his death, in 1902. Mr. Tisdel married Miss Elizabeth Sage, daughter of William Sage, of New York, who never came to Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Tisdel became the parents of the following children: Alice, deceased, who married Abner Hanscom, of Towner, N. D., and had a daughter, Mary, who married Lieutenant-Governor Devine, of North Dakota, who entered the governor's chair at the death of that official and acted in that capacity for the unexpired term; Loraine, who married William Sumner, of Cassell, Mich., postmaster there for several years, and has three children—Mildred, Hadley Clifford, and Vida; Ella, who died in 1892 as the wife of John Patrick, of Cedarburg, a carpenter by trade who followed farming until going to South Dakota, where he was engaged in railroad construction work, and had four children — Edith, Inga, Lura and Alice; and Frank. Frank Tisdel received his education in the public schools of Cedar Springs and first worked in the lumber woods for two years. In 1879 he came to his present property, and at that time almost in its virgin state, as there had been but little clearing done. He settled down to the work of making a home for himself and a fertile farm, and his 240-acre tract is now all cleared and boasts of excellent improvements, including a set of commodious buildings, modern equipment and machinery and all the comforts and conveniences that go with modern country life in the home of the successful agriculturist. Mr. Tisdel has worked hard for his success and it has been honorably attained. To assist him he has had an inherest business ability and a natural love of industry, and his career should prove an example and incentive to those who are starting life without assistance. Mr. Tisdel married Miss Dora Hillman, daughter of Sam F. and Elizabeth Hillman, of New York State. Mr. Hillman came to Michigan in 1852, settling in Nelson township, Kent county, and there both he and Mrs. Hillman passed the remaining years of their lives in agricultural pursuits. To Mr. and Mrs. Tisdel have been born these children: John, a farmer

Hosted by Google

of Grand Ledge, Mich., who is married; Seth, living at Stanwood, Mich., where he conducts a barber business, married Rhoda Miller, of Nelson township; Lavantia; Jesse, who married Lillie Parker, has three children—Irwin, Louise and Thena—and is engaged in farming; Ruby, living at home on the parental place, married Hallen Howard, of Nelson township, and has one child; and Elma, still attending school. Mr. Tsidel has never sought public recognition as an official, having been content to show his citizenship in other ways. He believes in progressive measures, however, and is willing to back with his ability, his energy and his means, all measures which make for advancement. In politics he backs the candidates of the Republican party.

Abner S. Tomkins.—Among the men who came to Kent county in the early '70s and have since assisted in the development of this great region of Michigan, one who is well known as an agriculturist is Abner S. Tomkins. He is now living practically retired as to active labor, but has large interests in land and lumber and is still an active participant in the civic life of his community, where he has served with honor and distinction in public offices for many years. Mr. Tomkins was born at Fulton City, Oswego county, New York, Aug. 19, 1847. His father was William Harrison Tomkins, who was born in Madison county, New York, in 1818. In his younger years he followed various vocations, including that of cooper, but on coming to Michigan, in 1870, settled down to farming and continued to be so engaged during the remainder of his life. His land at the time of his arrival was covered with a heavy growth of timber, which, as it was cleared off, was used by the family for fuel, the settlers of that date not realizing the value of this precious lumber. Mr. Tomkins was a man of industry and integrity and was highly thought of in his community, as was also his worthy wife. She bore the maiden name of Hannah Alice Simmons, and was born in Madison county, New York, daughter of Bronel S. Simmons, a York State farmer. There were six children in the family: Abner S.; Henry H., formerly a farmer but now living in retirement at Reed City, Mich.; Marion C., a farmer in Madison county, New York; Byron L., who died at the age of seven years; Squire S., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits, and Edward, deceased. Abner S. Tomkins received a public school education and his youth and young manhood were passed in his native state, where he received training in several lines of endeavor. Then his parents struck out for the West, and he came to Michigan two years later, and bought the farm where he now lives. Later he embarked in the lumber business, and these two industries have furnished him with the means of working out a well-won success, he today being considered one of the substantial men of his community. Mr. Tomkins was married, first to Amanda Van Akin, and of this union were born five children: Clara A., Clarence, Millard L., Thomas H. and Ernest C. His second marriage was to Fannie M. Mohr, and four children were born to them—Ruth E., Basil E., Gertrude M. and Marcus H. Mr. Tompins has taken an active part in civic affairs during a long period, having been a justice of the peace for fourteen years and treasurer of the school board for four decades. His public service has been excellent and his citizenship splendid. As a voter he gives his support to the Republican party. He was bap-

Hosted by Google

tised in the Baptist church at Hamilton, Madison county, New York State, but in 1888 joined the Children of Zion church at Grand Rapids. He was a member of the I. O. O. F. for many years.

Squire S. Tompkins.—Among the native sons of New York who have won success and occupy enviable and prominent positions in their various communities, one who has represented the forceful and progressive element of his state is Squire S. Tompkins, who is now engaged in farming in the vicinity of Sand Lake. His salient characteristics are determination, diligence and keen sagacity, and upon these he has builded his prosperity, winning high and well-merited success. Mr. Tompkins was born in the town of Vawley, Oswego county, New York, Feb. 11, 1857, son of William H. Tompkins. The father was a farmer in his native county of Madison, in the Empire State, and came to Michigan in the early days, settling in Kent county, where he continued to follow agricultural and other work. During the greater part of the time he resided here his home was in Nelson township, where he became widely and favorably known because of his industry and unfailing integrity. Mr. Tompkins married Miss Hannah Simons, daughter of Brownell Simons, and there were six children in their family, the names of whom will be found in the sketch of the life of A. S. Tomkins, on another page of this work, in which also will be found further history of the family. Squire S. Tompkins received his education in the public schools of Nelson township and was brought up to habits of industry and honesty. The former led him to early take his place among the world's workers and to endeavor to accomplish each task in a worthy and accurate manner, while the latter soon gained him a splendid reputation and assisted him materially in his climb. For a time he was employed in the lumber woods, where he built up his body in the hard labor attendant thereto, and subsequently he also engaged in cutting shingles. Likewise he turned his attention to clearing land and numerous other work that offered a fair compensation for honest toil. He was thrifty and ambitious and eventually accumulated sufficient means with which to embark in farming on his own account, choosing as his scene of endeavor, Nelson township, where he has spent practically all of his life. He has succeeded in his farming operations and is accounted one of the well-to-do men of his community, his farm being a model one, with up-to-date comforts and conveniences and modern improvements and buildings. Mr. Tompkins married Miss Henrietta Misner, daughter of Henry and Catherine Misner, who came from Germany and became farmers of Kent county, where they passed the remainder of their lives. To Mr. and Mrs. Tompkins have been born the following children: William, who resides with his parents and is his father's assistant in operating the home farm; Eva, wife of Ray Lewis, has two children—Lloyd and Dora; Lula; Maggie, who married R. O. Sarbey and has two children—Squire and Gaylord; Adelia, who is unmarried and lives with her parents; Emma, deceased; and Barbara, wife of Harry Duenner, a traveling salesman with headquarters at Grand Rapids. Mr. Tompkins is a Democrat, but has not been particularly interested in politics save as a voter. He is fraternally affiliated with the Knights of the Maccabees, and he has membership with the Congregational church.

Hosted by Google

Jarvis C. Train.—Something more than a simple announcement and a passing remark is due to the memory of an individual who was not only one of the most prominent men of Lowell, but who by reason of an extended residence there was as familiar to the people as their own household gods. As much as any other man, perhaps, he contributed to the upbuilding and development of the community, and as the years have passed since his death there has been no hint of any stain or blemish upon his business or personal record. Farming, horse raising, the grain business and other commercial enterprises, all occupied his attention and benefitted by his activities, while he was likewise prominent in politics and public life and an influential factor in securing for Lowell some of its earliest transportation facilities. Mr. Train was born at Tunbridge, Orange county, Vermont, July 8, 1834, son of Sylvester and Lucinda Train, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of Vermont. His father, a farmer by vocation, removed from Vermont to South Boston, Mich., in 1840, and there passed the remaining years of his life in agricultural pursuits. The public schools of South Boston furnished Jarvis C. Train with his educational training, and when his studies were completed he immediately engaged in farming, which he followed for several years. Indeed, he never lost his affection for the soil, and even though outside interests distracted his attention he continued to own and operate land, and at the time of his death had a farm of 600 acres in Michigan and a valuable property in Arkansas. On coming to Lowell, Mr. Train embarked in the grain and elevator business, and a large part of his substantial fortune was accumulated through the medium of buying and selling grain. He built the Train elevator, one of the best-known enterprises of this locality, and was at its head during a long period, guiding its policies with a sure hand and a capable brain, and winning public confidence by his straightforward methods of doing business. He also became one of the county's prominent horsemen, dealt extensively in fine animals, and owned sixty head when his death occurred. It was in connection with this business that he met his death, for it came as a direct result of a kick from one of his animals. In addition to the elevator, Mr. Train contributed to the upbuilding of Lowell, the Lowell Opera House and the Hotel Waverly, and in numerous other ways showed his public spirit and civic pride. He was one of the original organizers and directors of the Kalamazoo, Lowell & Northern Michigan railroad, and it was largely through his hard and energetic work, as well as his financial influence, that the road was induced to build to this point. In political matters he always took an interest, although more as a supporter of Democrat party and personal friends than as a seeker for personal preferment. When he died, March 10, 1906, the village lost one who had been a friend to all its enterprises and institutions and who had won success among its citizens in a manly and honorable way. Mr. Train was married April 6, 1856, to Elizabeth, daughter and only child of Charles and Laura Warren, of Brimfield, Mass., who, coming to Kent county at a very early date, took up land here and continued to be engaged in farming during the remainder of their lives. They both died in Lowell. Mrs. Train, who survives her husband, is one of the best-known ladies of Lowell, where she resides in the comfortable family home, surrounded by numerous friends.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



Hosted by Google

Philip H. Travis.—During more than a quarter of a century Philip H. Travis has been engaged in the general practice of law in the city of Grand Rapids. Mr. Travis was born at Hartford, Mich., Jan. 3, 1865, son of John W. Travis. His early education was secured in the public schools, following which he entered the University of Michigan, graduating in the law department of that institution with the class of 1890. He began practice at Grand Rapids in the same year, as a member of the firm of Montgomery, Bundy & Travis, and this association continued until 1892, when, upon the election of Mr. Montgomery to the Supreme Court, the firm became Bundy & Travis. At present he is senior member of the firm of Travis, Merrick, Warner & Johnson, with offices in the Michigan Trust Company building. He is a member of the Kent County Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association, and the American Bar Association.

David W. Troy was born in Caledonia township, Dec. 9, 1863, son of John C. and Bridget (Maloy) Troy, natives of Ireland. As young people these parents came to America and were married in Jackson, Mich., where they resided for a time and later removed to Kent county and settled where their son, David W., now resides. There the father purchased 160 acres of wild land which he cleared and developed into a productive farm and pleasant home where he and his wife rounded out their lives and died. They became the parents of eight children: Ed., the eldest, is a physician, formerly in practice at Detroit, but now at McAllister, Okla., where he owns and manages a hospital; Mother Catherine, of Oklahoma City; Sister Frances, of Krebs, Okla.; David W.; Rev. John E., located at Bay City, where he is pastor of St. James' church; Winnie, wife of James Abraham, of Grattan township; Rev. Patrick, a teacher in a college at Omaha, Neb.; and Katie, who died at the age of twelve years. David W. Troy attended the district schools in Caledonia township and then taught in the public schools for two years. On Oct. 13, 1904, he was married to Miss Agnes M. Huver, who was born in Allegan county, daughter of Barney and Catherine (Miller) Huver. These parents were natives of Canada, who came to Allegan county and made their home there the remainder of their lives. They had thirteen children: Lewis J., a machinist in Battle Creek; Priscilla, wife of William Leedy, of Caledonia township; Peter, a farmer of near Allegan; Elizabeth, deceased at the age of four years; Edmund, a blacksmith at Middleville; Mrs. Troy; Noah, a farmer in Gaines township; Rev. Leo A., of Detroit; Julia, at home; Frances and Florence, deceased; Mary, wife of Thomas Young, of Grand Rapids; and Alfred, who works on the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Troy have an adopted daughter, Mary Ruth. They are members of the Catholic church and Mr. Troy is a Democrat in his political views. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Modern Woodmen.

Edwin F. Uhl, who during a long period was one of the leading members of the Michigan bar and at one time a prominent figure in diplomatic circles of the country, was born at Rush, near Avon Springs, N. Y., Aug. 14, 1841, and was three years of age when brought to Michigan by his parents, his father, David M. Uhl, making his home on a farm "on the plains," just east of the city of Ypsilanti. In that neighborhood Edwin F. grew up, receiving his early

Hosted by Google

education in the district schools, and when thirteen years of age entered Ypsilanti Seminary, being not quite seventeen when he completed his course, and, even at that age, a leader of his class in oratory. He entered the University of Michigan in 1858, taking a classical course and graduating in 1862, with a most creditable college record, and immediately thereafter he took up the study of law in the office of Norris & Minde, at Ypsilanti. In 1864 he was admitted to the bar of Michigan before the Supreme Court of the state, and for about thirty years thereafter was in continuous practice, advancing steadily to the front ranks of the profession. In 1866 Mr. Uhl formed a partnership with Hon. Lyman D. Norris, then of Ypsilanti, and this relation continued until 1871, when Mr. Norris moved to Grand Rapids. During that and the succeeding year, Mr. Uhl was prosecuting attorney for the county of Washtenaw, and in 1873 he became associated with Albert E. Crane, a partnership which continued until 1876, when Mr. Uhl came to Grand Rapids and resumed his association with Mr. Norris. This relation remained unchanged for eleven years. In the meantime Mr. Uhl was made president of the Grand Rapids National Bank and became identified with numerous industrial and financial enterprises as a stockholder and director, having come into contact with numerous business men and financiers in the course of his professional work in the courts. In 1887 Mr. Norris retired from the firm of Norris & Uhl and Mr. Uhl once more became the associate of Albert E. Crane, who had also come to Grand Rapids, this continuing until October, 1893. In politics Mr. Uhl was a stanch Democrat and took more than a perfunctory interest in the affairs of his party, and in 1890 and 1891 served as mayor of Grand Rapids, giving the city an excellent administration, filled with progressive movements and excellent government. He was tendered, in 1893, a high position in the United States war department, but refused on the grounds that he was entirely unfamiliar with military affairs, and later he was asked to accept a military post abroad, which he also declined. During the illness of Secretary of State Gresham, Mr. Uhl occupied that position for a time, having been appointed assistant secretary of state in October, 1893. In 1895 he went abroad and traveled over a large part of the European continent, inspecting the consular service, and in February, 1896, was appointed American ambassador plenipotentiary to the German Empire. He remained in Berlin until 1897, when he was succeeded by Hon. Andrew D. White. Returning to the United States at that time, Mr. Uhl resumed his law practice at Grand Rapids and Chicago, at Chicago as a member of the firm of Uhl, Jones & Landis, and at Grand Rapids with Uhl, Hyde & Earle. In 1899 he withdrew from the Chicago firm and continued his connection at Grand Rapids for several years longer, but finally retired, and he died at this city May 17, 1901. He joined the Episcopal church while still a resident of Ypsilanti and at Grand Rapids belonged to St. Mark's congregation of that denomination. Mr. Uhl was married May 1, 1865, to Miss Alice Follett, of Ypsilanti, daughter of Hon. Benjamin Follett, and they became the parents of four children: Lucy F., wife of Daniel R. Wood, of San Jose, Cal.; David Edwin, a resident of Grand Rapids; Alice Edwina, wife of Earl D. Babst, of New York City; and Marshall Mortimer.

Hosted by Google

Marshall M. Uhl.—The worthy son of a distinguished sire, Marshall Mortimer Uhl bids fair to perpetuate the record for brilliant achievements in the law made by his father, the late Hon. Edwin F. Uhl. While time has not yet given him the opportunity for really eminent service, he has already made an established position for himself at the Grand Rapids bar, and as a progressive and virile citizen he is alive to the real problems of the day. He was born at Grand Rapids, Nov. 22, 1882, son of Edwin F. and Alice (Follett) Uhl. After graduation in the Central High School he became a student at the University of Michigan and graduated in the literary department of that institution, in 1906. Following this, he pursued a two-year course in law, and in 1908 began practice at Ishpeming, with William P. Belden. From that point, in March, 1909, he came to Grand Rapids and entered the offices of Kleinhans & Knappen, and April 1, 1913, was admitted to partnership in the firm. He is now in the enjoyment of an excellent practice and stands high in reputation at the Grand Rapids bar, as well as in the confidence of his fellow-members in the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar Association. He is a member of the Association of Commerce and the Rotary club, is fraternally affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and has numerous close friends among his fellow-members in the Peninsular and Kent Country clubs. For several years he has been active in contributing to the advancement of the Anti-Tuberculosis Society and is a member of the official board at Grand Rapids. His religious connection is with St. Mark's Episcopal church, of which he has been vestryman for some time. Mr. Uhl was married Oct. 1, 1912, to Ellen, daughter of James B. and Annie (Bushnell) Howard, of Grand Rapids, and they have two children—Alice Mortimer and John Howard.

Henry J. Vanden Berg, M. D.—Medicine embraces a wide field of knowledge, and the successful physician must be a man of comprehensive and varied learning. Never at any time has the healing art demanded more of its practitioners than at the present and never has the profession given such a splendid account of itself. The physicians of Kent county, and particularly those of Grand Rapids, have steadily kept pace with the wonderful advancements which have been made, and therefore, to occupy a leading position among the practitioners of county and State, is in itself evidence of broad learning and signal ability. Such a position and such acquisitions are possessed by Dr. Henry J. Vanden Berg, who is engaged successfully in practice at Grand Rapids, where he has made a particularly edifying success in the field of surgery. Dr. Henry J. Vanden Berg was born at Zeeland, Ottawa county, Michigan, July 6, 1879, a son of Dr. John William and Delia (De Kruif) Vanden Berg. His father, born at Buffalo, N. Y., was educated at the University of Michigan, in which institution he was graduated with the degree of Doctor of Medicine and for some years was engaged in practice at Jenisonville, from which place he removed to Holland, Mich., his present field of labor. He has a large and successful practice and is accounted one of the skilled physicians and surgeons of Ottawa county, where he is also a substantial and public-spirited citizen. Mrs. Vanden Berg also survives. Henry J. Vanden Berg, the only survivor of the four children of his parents, received his early education in the public schools, following

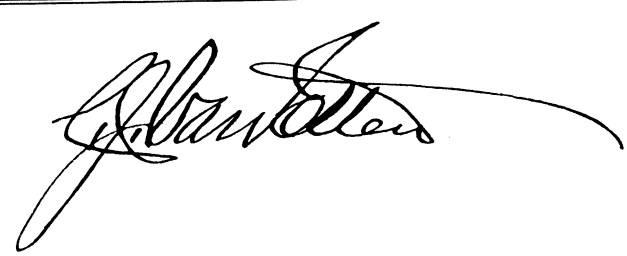
Hosted by Google

which he attended Hoke College for several years. From his father he inherited a predilection for the medical profession, and after same training under the preceptorship of the elder man, enrolled as a student of the medical department at the University of Michigan, his father's alma mater, in which he was graduated with his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1905. His first practical experience was gained as an assistant to Dr. Richard R. Smith, of Grand Rapids, with whom he remained for three years, and then for one year was located at Petoskey, Mich., where he followed his calling with some measure of success for one year. Desiring to gain further training, Dr. Vanden Berg went to Europe, in 1908, and for two years thereafter studied at the University of Vienna, Austria, and upon his return, in 1910, again became associated with Dr. Smith, at Grand Rapids, this time as a partner. He has been successful in the gaining of a large and representative clientele and has established something more than a local reputation as a surgeon, his practice now being solely confined to this field. A man of broad information along many kindred lines, he has kept in close touch with advancement, and avails himself of the opportunities to be gained by membership in the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. For several years he has been a surgeon on the staff of Butterworth Hospital. Dr. Vanden Berg's paternal grandfather was a physician, a graduate of Hague University, and two of his brothers were military surgeons. The paternal great-great-grandfather served as a surgeon under Napoleon and his father was also a military surgeon. So it will be seen that Dr. Vanden Berg comes through a long line of ancestors who were physicians and surgeons. Essentially a self-made man, he has not allowed himself to be hampered by the fact that he has had to win through hard work every step forward, but rather has so shaped circumstances as to make what to another might seem like adversity serve but as a stimulus to his ambition. He is well known to the social life of Grand Rapids and is a popular member of the Peninsular and Highlands Golf clubs and the Kiwanis club. Doctor Vanden Berg was married, Feb. 1, 1909, to Miss Edna Gibson, of Allegan, Mich., and they are the parents of two children: Anna Jean and Henry J., Jr.

Clarence J. Van Etten.—The history of the growth and progress of Grand Rapids is, naturally, a history of the development of its great enterprises and industries. Without these contributing factors the city could not have attained its present prestige, and in the same degree these big institutions could not have been possible were it not for the work of able, energetic men of sound capacity and business foresight. The most important concern connected with the timber industry with headquarters in the Furniture City is that of the Blodgett Company, Ltd., and among the men who have contributed to its progressive growth, one of the best known to the trade is Clarence J. Van Etten, who has been identified with this enterprise for twenty-seven years, and he is now the assistant secretary and treasurer. Mr. Van Etten was born at Lyons, Mich., Oct. 9, 1865, son of Henry and Cornelia (Hoffman) Van Etten, natives of the State of New York. He was educated in the public schools of his native place and at the

Hosted by Google





Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

West Michigan Business College, of Grand Rapids, and as a youth became a registered pharmacist, following that profession for several years. For one year he was connected with the office of the court reporter of the Supreme Court at Lansing, Mich., coming to Grand Rapids in 1890, and in the following year entered the employ of the long-established firm of D. A. Blodgett & Company as a stenographer. His fidelity to this concern has never wavered and at present he occupies the position of assistant secretary and treasurer of the Blodgett Company, Limited, under which style the business is now conducted. He has worked his way steadily up through the ranks and few men are better informed as to the timber and lumber trade in general or better known to lumber men throughout this part of the country. Mr. Van Etten is a Republican and has always taken a deep interest in matters pertaining to the betterment of the city. He holds membership in the Peninsular, Kent Country and the Owashtanong clubs, and likewise belongs to the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. He was married Oct. 12, 1897, to Bernice, daughter of Orland and Mary E. (Brown) Godwin, of Grand Rapids, and they have a daughter, Mary.

Sidney M. Van Namee, Sr.—There are many great manufacturing plants at Grand Rapids that have a nation-wide reputation and one of these is the Grand Rapids Wood Finishing Company, of which Sidney Van Namee, Sr., is vice-president and he is also superintendent of the entire plant. Mr. Van Namee is well qualified for this important position, having been associated with this company for many years with practical experience in its every branch. He was born at Oswego, N. Y., April 10, 1856, son of Sidney M. and Laura (Burdick) Van Namee, who spent their lives in Oswego county. At the age of fifteen years Sidney M. left school and home and came to Kent county, Michigan, in search of better fortune than seemed to promise in the old familiar neighborhood. When he reached Grand Rapids the proverbial chance awaiting ambitious youths did not materialize, so the boy sensibly went to work for Farmer Knapp, in the vicinity, and thus provided for his needs for a time, and later spent two winter seasons in the woods in a lumber camp. Returning then to Grand Rapids he entered the employ of H. M. Gobel, with whom he remained for twelve years, and afterward was with the Heystek Company for two years. He then became a traveling salesman for the Grand Rapids Paint & Color Company, later taking charge of the plant. He was married March 26, 1878, to Miss Louisa J. Bateman, of Oswego, N. Y., and they have two children and one grandchild: Allesion K., of Indianapolis, Ind.; Sidney M., Jr., of Caledonia, Mich., and Aletha J., the last named being a daughter of Mr. Van Namee's oldest child. In his political views Mr. Van Namee is a Republican, and fraternally he is identified with the Modern Woodmen of America.

Robert Van Noord.—Among the men connected prominently with the business and financial life of Grand Rapids, one who has impressed his versatility and capability upon the community is Robert Van Noord, manager of the Eastern Avenue Branch of the Commercial Savings Bank and a member of the large book publishing and jobbing firm of Eedrmans-Sevensma Company. Mr. Van Noord may still be classed as a member of the younger generation of business men, yet he has already achieved a noteworthy success. He was

Hosted by Google

born at Vriesland, Mich., Aug. 28, 1880, son of Gelmer and Lucy (Zwiers) Van Noord, natives of the Netherlands. Both came to the United States in 1867, locating at Vriesland, where Gelmer Van Noord engaged in agricultural pursuits, and where, being an industrious, thrifty and intelligent man, he achieved success through his good business management. About the year 1909 he retired from active farming and went to Zeeland, in which community his home was made until his death, April 6, 1913. Mrs. Van Noord still survives him and makes her home in a comfortable residence at that place. Mr. Van Noord was a Republican and a leader in the Christian Reformed church, to which his widow belongs. He was greatly esteemed in his several communities as a man of sterling probity of character and as a citizen whose intelligent and well-directed labors contributed to the prestige of his community. Mr. and Mrs. Van Noord had the following children: John, who still makes his home at Vriesland; Jennie, wife of Rev. William De Groot, a pastor of the Christian Reformed church, now taking a post-graduate course at Princeton, N. J.; Alice, wife of John Van Welt, of Zeeland, Mich.; Lena, wife of Albert Ter Haar, of Zeeland, Mich.; Egbert, a resident of Drenthe, this state; Maggie, widow of E. L. Brouwer and who also lives at Drenthe; Robert; Johannes, of Grand Rapids; Peter, of Zeeland, Mich.; and Gertrude, who is unmarried and resides with her mother. Like other farmers' sons of his community, Robert Van Noord received the ordinary educational advantages offered by the public schools of Vriesland, and this training was subsequently supplemented by a course in the Grand Rapids Business College. When he left the latter institution he secured employment with W. D. Bishop, a merchant, with whom he remained for approximately three years, and for the year that followed was connected with the Commercial Credit Company. A like period was passed in the Boston Store, Grand Rapids, followed by one year in the Peoples' Savings Bank, and Mr. Van Noord then entered the Kent County Savings Bank, to which he gave his services for ten years, being gradually advanced from position to position until he reached a post of importance. He had, however, been on the alert for an opportunity to embark in business on his own account, and such a change presented itself in the Eerdmans-Sevensma Company, in which, in December, 1912, he bought an interest, and since that time has served in the capacities of secretary and treasurer. This company is engaged in publishing and jobbing Holland and American books and has its Grand Rapids office at 513-15 Eastern avenue, while the branch house of the concern is situated at 130 North Main street, Paterson, N. J. The company has agents all over the country and ships its books all over the world, and Mr. Van Noord's abilities and energies have done much to increase the volume of business done. In August, 1916, he became manager of the Eastern Avenue Branch of the Commercial Savings Bank, where his knowledge of financial matters has served to better business conditions and add to the institution's deposits. Mr. Van Noord is a member of the Association of Commerce, in which he allies himself with other progressive business men in movements for the commercial and financial welfare of the city. He is a Republican, but politics has not attracted him to the extent of calling him into the limelight as a candidate for public office. With his family, he be-

Hosted by Google

longs to the Christian Reformed church. Mr. Van Noord was married Aug. 17, 1905, to Ella, daughter of Anne and Anna (Jeltes) Lindemulder, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born four children: Gelmer Anthony, Andrew Gerald, Lawrence Robert and Robert John, all at home.

Frank A. Veit.—Of the business men of the younger generation at Grand Rapids, who is well known, is Frank A. Veit. He was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., Aug. 26, 1880, son of Jacob and Anna (Maier) Veit. His father, a native of Germany, was an infant a few months old when brought by his parents to the United States, the family locating in New York State, where Jacob Veit was reared and educated. When still a youth he came to Grand Rapids, in the vicinity of which city he secured employment as a farm hand, and while thus engaged recognized the opportunity presented for the formation of a successful brewing company. For a number of years his operations were carried on in a small way, but his business capacity, judgment and industry finally resulted in the founding of the Grand Rapids Brewing Company, which developed under his management into one of the largest concerns of its kind in the country, and of which he was president until his death, in December, 1911. He was one of the most popular men on the West Side, where he belonged to a number of German social organizations, and he was widely respected in business circles, no less for his sterling honesty than for his splendid business ability. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church, of which Mrs. Veit, who survives him and resides at Grand Rapids, is also a communicant. They were the parents of two children: William N., who died Dec. 9, 1914, and Frank A. Frank A. Veit was educated in the public and parochial schools of Grand Rapids and entered the Grand Rapids Brewing Company as an apprentice. He worked his way through merit from one position to another until made assistant superintendent, a post which he held for several years, and was then made superintendent of the plant and vice-president of the company, capacities in which he acts at the present time. Like his father, Mr. Veit is the possessor of many friends and belongs to a number of social and fraternal bodies, among them the Peninsular club and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Veit is yet a bachelor and makes his home with his mother.

Dennis J. Verburg.—Prominent among the farmers of northern Kent county is numbered Dennis J. Verburg, who is now the owner of the property which formerly belonged to his father, in Solon township. In a long and diversified career Mr. Verburg has engaged in a number of different pursuits and has been located in various communities, but has finally come to the conclusion that his greatest contentment and success can be found on a farm and that Kent county offers some of the best opportunities for the agriculturists to be found anywhere. He is a native of the Netherlands, born Oct. 24, 1859, his father being John Verburg, also born in that country. John Verburg was educated in his native land and was early taught the principles of landscape gardening, a vocation which he followed there until coming to America. He had been an earnest and industrious workman, but had failed to find a good opportunity, so that when he came to the United States, in 1871, he had little working capital. He soon found employment at Kalamazoo, on the grounds of the Michigan

Hosted by Google

State Asylum for the Insane, and after several years changed his residence to Grand Rapids, where he began farming. From that time forward agricultural work occupied his attention and he became one of the well-to-do farmers of Solon township. Mr. Verburg married Miss Stofflena Eikenhont, daughter of Dennis Eikenhont, of the Netherlands, and of this union were born eleven children, of whom all died in infancy with the exception of four: Simon, who is a prescription druggist at Detroit, Mich., although his residence is at Jackson; Martin, connected with the Milwaukee Gas and Light Company; Girard, foreman of the cutting room of the Imperial Furniture Company's factory at Grand Rapids, and Dennis J. Dennis J. Verburg received his education in the public schools of the Netherlands and was eleven years of age when he came to America, where he first secured employment as a clerk in the boot and shoe establishment of S. O. Bennett & Son, Grand Rapids. After this experience in commercial affairs he engaged in farming for two years in Ada township, Kent county, but after two years gave this up to accept a clerical position at Kalamazoo. Next came an experience as a railroad man, in the employ of the Michigan Central railroad, but this lasted only a short time before he returned to his father's farm in Solon township, where he remained several years. Following this, Mr. Verburg went to Chicago and in the Illinois metropolis became head janitor and shipping and receiving clerk for the Columbia Museum Company. When he left this concern it was to return to the farm in Solon township, where he has since worked out an honorable and deserved success. Mr. Verburg is known as one of the skilled agriculturists of his region, with keen business sense and capability. His travels have given him a broader outlook on life and have aided in giving him a keener insight to men and their motives. In 1888 Mr. Verburg married Miss Ellen M. Huff, daughter of David and Annetta B. Huff, farming people of Solon township. Mr. Huff served the Union in the dark days of 1861-1865, and while he had many narrow escapes came through unharmed. Mrs. Verburg died in 1917, having been the mother of seven children, of whom three are now living: Glenn O., who married Ethel Anderson, of Greenville, Mich., and has six girls—Pearl, Blanche, Marie, Edith, Doratha, and Irma; Ray Clark, who married Mary DeWolf, and has a son, Joseph R., and Lena Annetta, who is the wife of John Rogalewski, of Nelson township, and has a son, John Dennis. Mr. Verburg filled the office of township supervisor during 1911 and 1912, and again in 1915-1916, and he rendered his community faithful and able service. He maintains an independent stand in regard to political questions, and is a member of the Church of Christ at Pierson.

Leonard D. Verdier, of Grand Rapids, is an able member of the bar, a leader in the Republican party in the state, and a citizen who has impressed the force and straightforwardness of his character upon the institutions of Michigan as a member of both houses of the state legislature. He has spent the entire period of his professional career at Grand Rapids, where the family has been located since 1866, and where its members have been known as honorable and successful business and professional men and helpful and public-spirited citizens. Mr. Verdier was born at Grand Rapids, Oct. 19, 1877, a son of John A. S. and Maria J. (D'Ooge) Verdier, natives of the province of Zee-

Hosted by Google

land, Netherlands, where Mrs. Verdier was born, at Zierikzee, on the Ooster Schelde. John A. S. Verdier was still a youth when he came to the United States, in 1849, and first located at Buffalo, N. Y. He later turned his face toward the West and came directly to Wisconsin, his first residence in that state being Sheboygan. While there he continued to be identified with different lines of endeavor, gaining experience in business methods, and when the Civil war came on displayed his loyalty to the land of his adoption by enlisting for service in the Union army. He became second lieutenant of a company from Sheboygan, in a Wisconsin volunteer infantry regiment, fought through the struggle with that organization, and rose to the rank of captain, establishing an excellent military record for valor and faithfulness. In the meantime, he had carefully saved his officer's pay, which he added to some small capital which he had been able to save before going to war, and in 1866 came to Grand Rapids and invested his means in a modest feed and produce business. This venture prospered gratifyingly, and he was encouraged to enter other fields, with the result that he was later known as proprietor of a hardware store and as a furniture manufacturer, and finally, entering financial affairs, became cashier of the Kent County Savings Bank and its successor, the Kent State Bank, a position in which he was serving at the time of his death, March 8, 1912. Mrs. Verdier survived him only until May 5, 1913. Mr. Verdier was prominent in public affairs, and, in fact, in the life of the city generally. A Republican in politics, at one time he was alderman of his ward, was treasurer of Kent county for two terms, and was Presidential elector for Colonel Roosevelt, in 1904. Fraternally, he was affiliated with the Masons, was organizer of the Knickerbocker Society at Grand Rapids, and its first president, always took an interest in the Grand Army of the Republic and attended its annual encampments, and belonged to the First Reformed church, the movements of which he supported generously. In his various activities Mr. Verdier displayed a high order of citizenship, and in every walk of life was the recipient of his fellow-citizens' esteem and confidence. He and Mrs. Verdier were the parents of four sons: John Walter, of Mancelona, Mich.; Leonard D.; and Frank Lawrence and Martin D'Ooge, of Grand Rapids. When he had finished his public high school course, in 1895, Leonard D. Verdier entered the University of Michigan, and in that institution completed his literary course in 1899, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and his law studies in 1901, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. His first practical experience was acquired in the law office of Butterfield & Keeney, but after a short time with this firm embarked upon an independent career, and has since built up a large and lucrative general practice, his present offices being situated in the Grand Rapids Savings building. He has steadily forged to the front as one of the strong and versatile legal lights of the Furniture City, and at the same time has been a more than ordinarily effective influence in the Republican party, which, in 1909, elected him a member of the lower house of the state legislature, and, in 1913, sent him to the Senate, in each of which he served two terms. He established a good record as a legislator and worked hard with other faithful public servants to secure the passage of good and beneficial legislation. While at college, Mr. Verdier attained membership in the Phi Delta Phi law

Hosted by Google

fraternity. He is also a member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association, the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce. Mr. Verdier was married June 26, 1904, to Miss Anna E., daughter of Wheaton D. and M. Jennie (Alexander) Carpenter, of Saginaw, Mich., and they have six children, all at home: Eleanor, John A. S., Margaret, Anne, Leonard D., Jr., and Virginia.

Martin D'Ooge Verdier.—The career of Martin D'Ooge Verdier as a business man and financier of Grand Rapids has covered only a period of fourteen years, yet in this time his activities have invaded a number of fields of commercial endeavor, and at the present time he is well known in banking circles as manager of the Michigan-Monroe office of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. When he embarked upon his career, Mr. Verdier had the advantage of a comprehensive and practical education, to which were added native ability and industry and a determination to make a success in life. In his rise from a humble position to one of importance he has gained a great fund of experience which will do much to aid him in the higher positions to which he will undoubtedly attain. Mr. Verdier is a native son of Grand Rapids, his father being John A. S. Verdier, and belongs to one of the old-established and highly respected families of the Furniture City, a review of which will be found in the sketch of Leonard Verdier, on another page of this work. His early education was secured in the graded and high schools, and after leaving the latter he enrolled as a student in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, in which institution he was graduated with the class of 1904, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His first experience in the business world was secured while an employe of the Kent County Savings Bank, where for a short time he held a minor clerkship, and when he left that position it was to go to the Michigan lumber woods, where for one year he worked in various capacities connected with the great lumber industry of this state. On his return to Grand Rapids, he was for two years engaged in the lumber business and the manufacture of furniture, and then turned his attention to the coal business, which held his activities for a like period. Mr. Verdier returned to banking, his first vocation, when he entered the employ of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. Here his ability was soon recognized, as was his executive capacity, and his fidelity appreciated, and in March, 1915, he was made manager of the Michigan-Monroe office of this institution, a position which he has since retained. Mr. Verdier has formed a wide acquaintance in the banking circles of Grand Rapids and adjacent communities and is accounted a man of capacity and resource, well grounded in the principles of banking, and possessed of the qualities so necessary to success, conservatism and foresight, the former combined with a certain amount of progressiveness, and the latter governed by sound and practical judgment. He has high ideals as to what constitutes the honorable banker. His political views make him a Republican, but he has had neither the time nor the inclination to seek personal preferment at the hands of his party. His only fraternal connection is with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he also belongs to several of the city's leading clubs. Mr. Verdier is a member of the First Reformed church. He was married Sept. 25, 1914, to Frances H., daughter of

Hosted by Google

Michael Lo Schultz, of Ottawa county, Michigan, and to this union there has been born a son, Robert Martin.

Clifford H. Walker, who is treasurer and superintendent of the Powers & Walker Casket Company at Grand Rapids, has been identified with this business house ever since he left school. He was born in this city April 25, 1872. His parents were Joseph H. and Loranca (Smith) Walker. His father was born in Vermont, but came to Oakland county, Michigan, in boyhood and later cleared up and improved a farm near Berlin. Still later he came to Grand Rapids and was engaged as a bridge contractor in the construction of the Grand Rapids & Indiana railroad. Joseph H. Walker was a man of much business enterprise and business acumen. For a time he was superintendent of the Chubb foundry at Cimlettville and later became superintendent of the Grand Rapids Burial Case Company, of which he was a stockholder. In 1875 Mr. Walker became interested, with William H. Powers, in a sash, door and blind factory which was conducted on the site of the present Powers & Walker Casket Company's plant, and they began the manufacture of caskets after purchasing the stock of the Grand Rapids Burial Case Company. Mr. Powers became the first president of the company, of which Mr. Walker was vice-president and superintendent of the factory. Mr. Powers died Feb. 25, 1895, and Mr. Walker succeeded him as president and continued in that official relation until his death, May 18, 1910, when Mrs. Sarah L. Powers became president. In politics Mr. Walker was a Republican. He belonged to the Baptist church, and was a Knights Templar Mason. His two children survive, Clifford H. and Bessie, the latter being the wife of Heber A. Knott, of Grand Rapids. Clifford H. Walker completed his course in the Central High School, Grand Rapids, in 1889, and a commercial course in the Grand Rapids Business College. In 1891 he entered the factory of the Powers & Walker Casket Company to learn the business and has continued to be identified with it ever since, at present being factory superintendent and treasurer of the company. He was married Feb. 21, 1911, to Miss Hazel McMahon, daughter of William A. and Gertrude (Collver) McMahon, of this city, and they have a son, Joseph W., born Oct. 17, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Walker are members of the Fountain Street Baptist church. He belongs to Doris Lodge No. 342, A. F. & A. M., and to Clinton Consistory, also to the Association of Commerce and the O-wash-ta-nong club.

Frank J. Walsh.—Among the members of the agricultural fraternity of Kent county, there are to be found a number who have been attracted to the farm after having had experience in other fields of endeavor. This class is well represented by Frank J. Walsh, who, while still practically a newcomer in this county, has already displayed ability in the handling of his farming ventures that if continued bids fair to make him one of the substantial men of Nelson township. Mr. Walsh is one of the recruits from a large city who in recent years have taken up country life. He was born in Waukesha county, Wisconsin, and enjoyed the educational facilities of his native place, afterward attending school at Beaver Dam, Wis., and at the University of Chicago. He then taught school in Sioux Falls, S. D., for eight years, and was afterward in business at Chicago, until 1911. Eventually he decided that opportunities for advancement

Hosted by Google

were not presenting themselves rapidly enough, and began to cast about for some other vocation. At this timely period the opportunity presented itself for him to take up farming in Kent county, a proposition to which he readily assented. He has since done something more than to "make good" in his new field of work and predictions have been made that he will go far as an agriculturist. However, he still maintains his connections with commercial life by acting as a traveling salesman for McNeil & Higgins, of Chicago, and the farm management is in the hands of his son, David. Like all young men of his age, the son faces the possibility of being called to join the colors of his country and is ready to make the sacrifice when he is called for. In the meantime he is going resolutely along with his farm work, improving the fields, adding to the equipment and making the buildings more attractive and useful. He is an affable young man who makes friends readily and holds them indefinitely, and is particularly popular with the younger set in his community, being frequently called upon for participation in entertainments where "home talent" is in order. On Sept. 8, 1887, Mr. Walsh was married to Miss Gertrude Halteman, a native of McHenry county, Illinois, and daughter of Rev. David Emery Halteman, who was born at Germantown, Pa., and became a minister in the Baptist church. As a boy he removed with his parents to Dayton, Ohio, and was educated in Granville College and at the Rochester (N. Y.) Theological Seminary. He followed the ministry in Illinois and later was located at Delevan, Wis. He and his wife are both deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Walsh are the parents of three children: David H., who has already been mentioned in this review, was born at Sioux Falls, S. D., Aug. 27, 1890, and received his education in Chicago, at Beaver Dam, Wis., and in the Missouri State University; he married Ida Hillman. Mary Frances was born at Sioux Falls, S. D., in 1894; graduated in Dennison University in 1917, receiving her master's degree in 1918, and she now has a government position in the base hospital at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Herbert B. was born in Chicago, Jan. 15, 1897, and is now a member of Battery D, One Hundred and Thirty-fourth field artillery.

Hon. George Proctor Wanty, deceased, was born March 12, 1856, at Ann Arbor, Mich., son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Proctor) Wanty, who were married at Holbrach, Lincolnshire, England. They came to the United States in 1853 and first located at Brooklyn, N. Y., but later came to Detroit, Mich., and to Ann Arbor, in 1856, a short time before the birth of their son, George P. The father died in 1859, and the mother survived until Feb. 1, 1911. The son's primary and academic education was secured in the public schools of Ann Arbor, and at an early age he was a bank clerk in that city. At the age of seventeen years he went to Bay City and remained there three years, engaged as manager of an industrial work. As soon as he was able to do so he entered the law department of the University of Michigan and graduated in 1878. He then came to Grand Rapids and for one year was employed as clerk in the office of Stuart & Sweet. He then formed a partnership with Col. Thaddeus Foote, for the practice of law, and this association continued for two years. He was also associated with the Hon. Fred A. Maynard for two years, as assistant prosecuting attorney, and in 1883 he formed a partnership with Niram

Hosted by Google

A. Fletcher which continued until the death of the latter, in 1899. Mr. Wanty was president of the State Bar Association in 1894, and in 1900 he was appointed by President McKinley to the position of United States Judge for the Western District of Michigan, and he served as such until his death. He was a Repupblican in his political affiliation and an Episcopalian in his religious views. On June 22, 1886, Judge Wanty married Miss Emma M. Nichols, of Kent county. At the time of her marriage Mrs. Wanty was an assistant to Dr. William H. Byford, of Chicago, and she was also a lecturer in the Women's Medical College in that city for six years. Mr. and Mrs. Wanty became the parents of two children: Helen graduated in the Grand Rapids High School and then entered Vassar College, where she graduated with the class of 1908; she married A. L. Grand, of Grand Rapids, and has three children—Elizabeth, born in 1912; Jane, 1915, and David Wanty, born in 1917. Thomas Cooley received his preliminary education in the Grand Rapids High School and graduated in the University of Michigan with the class of 1911. He is assistant manager of the Green Furniture Company and resides with his mother. He married Marguerite Prenison, of Baltimore, Md., and they have two children—George Proctor, born in 1914, and Virginia Prenison, born in 1917.

Charles E. Ward.—A member of the Kent county bar for thirty-six years, during which time he has been continuously engaged in practice at Grand Rapids, Charles E. Ward has established a reputation as one of the strong and versatile members of his profession. In his long and eminently successful and honorable career, he has been identified with several of the leading law firms of the city, but since 1906 has been engaged in practicing alone. Mr. Ward was born in Ada township, Kent county, Michigan, April 3, 1858, and was reared in the atmosphere of the farm. His father, William W. Ward, was born in New York, and was a lad when brought to Michigan by his parents, his education being secured in the primitive schools that furnished training for youths during the late '30s and early '40s. When he grew to manhood, he adopted agricultural pursuits for his life work, and through a long and successful residence in the country won the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens for his honorable actions in every walk of life. When approaching advanced age, he retired from active pursuits and came to Grand Rapids, and here his death occurred in 1899. He was a Republican, although his only participation in political matters was as a voter. Mr. Ward married Caroline E. Tillotson, who was born in England and died at Grand Rapids, in 1892, and they became the parents of six children: James H., who is engaged in farming in Ada township and is a member of the township board of supervisors; Eugene, engaged in agricultural pursuits in Gaines township, Kent county; Leonard A., formerly a successful attorney of Grand Rapids and now deceased; Charles E.; Lettie, who is the wife of Edwin Pettis, of Grand Rapids; and Clara B., a well-known teacher and for many years principal of the Second Avenue school. The early education of Charles E. Ward, in the public schools of his home community, was followed by his coming to Grand Rapids, in 1881, and here he studied for the law in the offices of Isaac H. Parrish and Leonard A. Ward, the latter his brother, until his admission to the bar, in 1882. He began practice in September

Hosted by Google

of that year and continued alone until 1884, then forming a partnership with his brother, with whom he was associated until the latter's death, in September, 1892. On Jan. 1, 1893, he became associated in practice with the late Judge Alfred Wolcott, and remained with him until Jan. 1, 1900, when he again began practicing by himself. Later he was with William B. Brown, who subsequently was elevated to the bench. On Jan. 1, 1907, the firm was dissolved and Mr. Ward has continued to the present time as an independent practitioner. His offices are in the Murray building, while his practice, of a general character, is in all the courts. Mr. Ward was assistant prosecutor under Judges Wolcott and Brown. He is a member of the Grand Rapids and Michigan State Bar Associations, and his standing in the profession is high. Fraternally, he belongs to the Knights of Pythias, and has filled all the offices in the subordinate lodge. Mr. Ward was united in marriage Sept. 15, 1886, with Ella E., daughter of Dr. Charles L. Henderson, of Grand Rapids, and of this union there have been born three children: Louis H., who is now deceased; Leonard A., who is reading law in the offices of Judge McDonald; and Charles E., Jr., who is a student at the Michigan Agricultural College.

Frederick Cook Warnshuis, M. D.—Since 1902 Dr. Frederick Cook Warnshuis has been engaged in the practice of medicine and surgery at Grand Rapids, and during this time has become known as a citizen occupying a conspicuous place among the public-spirited men of the city; and in medical circles as one of the most learned, skillful and authoritative men who have practiced in Kent county. In reviewing the comparatively short period which includes his career it is hard to comprehend how so much diversified labor and so weighty responsibilities could have been borne by so young a man. That this professional work should have been so thorough as to attract widespread attention and bring high honors from important sources makes his achievements all the more remarkable. The secret of his success is probably found in the fact that to mental endowments of high order, broadened by the best of training, he has added such persistence of application and well ordered method of procedure as to make the most of the time which the pressure of ordinary professional practice has spared to him. Frederick Cook Warnshuis was born at Alton, Sioux county, Iowa, June 16, 1880, a son of Rev. John W. Warnshuis, a pastor of the Dutch Reformed church, who, coming to Grand Rapids from Iowa, was pastor of the Fourth church of that denomination for four years. He died about March, 1900, while Mrs. Warnshuis passed away in 1881. Frederick C. Warnshuis received excellent educational advantages in his youth, attending first the graded and high schools of Chicago, and later Hope College, at Holland, Mich. For two years thereafter he worked in a bank at Chamberlain, S. D., thus earning the means wherewith to carry him through the course of study at the Grand Rapids Medical School, in which he was graduated with his degree in June, 1902. He immediately began practice at Grand Rapids, but did not give up his studies at that time, for, in 1903, he took a course in the New York Post-Graduate School, and in 1905 attended a number of clinics at Johns Hopkins University. He has continued to be a careful student, and in 1914 was honored by the degree of fellow of the American College of Phy-

Hosted by Google

sicians. Doctor Warnshuis' practice has been large and important, demanding the closest attention and constant work, yet he has found time to discharge in an eminent manner the duties of various offices with which he has been honored in his profession. He was first elected treasurer of the Kent County Medical Society, served as secretary of that organization for six years, and in 1915 was elected president of that body. In 1912 he was elected secretary of the Michigan State Medical Society and of the Medical Journal of that body, and from the start of his career has been a member of the American Medical Association. In September, 1915, he was appointed by Governor Ferris as a member of the Michigan State Board of Medical Examiners, his term expiring in 1919, and he is likewise a member of the advisory board thereof. Dr. Warnshuis is a member of the American Railway Chief Surgeons' Association, and Jan. 15, 1916, was appointed chief surgeon of the Pere Marquette railway, and holds a like position with the Grand Rapids Gas Light Company. He is a charter member and a member of the board of directors of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, and is visiting surgeon to the Butterworth Hospital. Doctor Warnshuis' private practice is extensive. Not only is he popular as a practitioner, but he has the respect and confidence of the faculty throughout the city, and in fact throughout the state. Although a thorough doctor, he is much more than a professional drudge. His thorough education, his wide acquaintance with literature and his social qualities have made him a general favorite, and he is well known in club circles, as a member of the Peninsular and O-wash-ta-nong clubs. He is a charter member of the Rotary club, became its first vice-president, and was then elected president of this organization, and, as an enthusiastic motorist is secretary of the Grand Rapids Automobile Association and of the Michigan State Automobile Association. Fraternally, the Doctor is affiliated with the Masons, Chapter, Commandery and Consistory, and is a Shriner. His political support has always been given to the Republican party. Dr. Warnshuis was married, May 27, 1906, to Miss Calla Ewing Botsford, daughter of Elton and Winnifred (Ewing) Botsford, of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of two children: Roger Leland and Robert Frederick.

Dudley E. Waters.—Many of the biographies appearing in this publication, illustrating the growth and progress of Kent county and of Grand Rapids, are those of early settlers, of the founders of great enterprises, or of leaders in public life or in professional vocations. Such men through the circumstances of their coming, or the period of their connection with affairs, possess a certain factitious advantage quite apart from their individual and intrinsic characters. Those following them, while they may possess equal or greater endowments, are in a measure overshadowed by the veneration in which men hold their elders, and are quite submerged in the vaster multitudes, who, in a great city, compete with one another for prominence, crowding every avenue of business and filling every opening for fame. Nevertheless, the life of the city cannot be adequately portrayed without taking into account those who have taken up the work of their fathers and carried it on with success quite equal to and often exceeding theirs. Dudley E. Waters is a member of the second generation of Grand Rapids business men. He is a native of the city and a

Hosted by Google

product of her schools, and his business training has been secured in her marts. He entered into a business already established, and inherited a fortune already amassed. The industry and ability which he has brought to the management, under conditions of greater competition, and beset by more destructive influences, may not have the scenic interest of those which surrounded the founder, while they may be quite as intense and substantial in character. Dudley E. Waters was born at Grand Rapids, Mich., a son of Daniel H. and Mary (Leffingwell) Waters. Since the death of the father he has acted as manager of the large estate, in behalf of his mother, two sisters and himself, under the style of D. H. Waters & Son. Daniel H. Waters was one of the original stockholders of the Grand Rapids National Bank, became one of its directors early in the history of the institution, and continued as a member of the board until the time of his death, when his son was elected as his successor. Dudley E. Waters and the Waters estate are now among the largest stockholders in this big banking house, and Mr. Waters has many other interests, some of which are connected with the Peoples' Savings Bank, which he helped to organize and of which he is a director. Primarily a banker and business man, with responsibilities of a personal character that are both heavy and important, Mr. Waters has found the time and the wish to assist in progressive measures for the public good. For four years he was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Public Works, three years of this time serving as president of that body, and during his administration of its affairs he introduced a number of innovations which practically revolutionized the methods of the board, obsolete customs which had been in vogue for many years and which had not kept abreast of the spirit of the times or of the growth of the city. One of these was the supplanting of the old method of water rate collections by a system under which quarterly payments were enforced. This alone added thousands of dollars to the city treasury and proved in the long run much more satisfactory to the taxpayers. In other directions Mr. Waters has shown his good citizenship and his desire to contribute of his abilities in building up the city and its institutions. He is well known in club and fraternal life, takes a keen and active interest in politics, and is a generous contributor to educational and religious movements. Mr. Waters married Miss Florence Hills, of Rome, Ga., and they have one son, Dudley Hills.

Hon. Roy M. Watkins.—The legal profession has attracted, from time immemorial, a very large percentage of notably brilliant men to its ranks. It is, when conscientiously followed, one of the noblest of callings, affording full play to Christian sympathy and holding a mighty prerogative, that of instigating exoneration and restitution to the wrongly oppressed, or the administration of just retribution to the guilty. It does not afford room or opportunity to the weakling, but the strong it strengthens with an insight to human thought and feeling, with a more accurate realization of the opportunities, obligations and responsibilities that are civilization's bequest to modern manhood. Of the many members of the Michigan bar who by reason of their mastery of their profession were called to high places in the service of their state and country, one who is still well remembered is the late Hon. Erwin C. Watkins. Succeeding him in prac-

Hosted by Google

tice and promising to perpetuate his reputation for valuable and distinguished service is his son, Hon. Roy M. Watkins, of Grand Rapids. Roy M. Watkins was born at Rockford, Kent county, Michigan, Oct. 17, 1874, son of Hon. Erwin C. and Julia S. (Brown) Watkins. Erwin C. Watkins was born at Covington, Genesee county, New York, in the town of Middlebury, Jan. 15, 1839, and as a child, in 1844, was taken to Grattan, Mich., subsequently attending school in Grand Rapids. At that place he studied law in the office of Miller & Willson, and in the early part of 1861 was admitted to the bar. At this time the great Civil war came on to interrupt his career, but also it may have done something to bring to the forefront his inherent qualities of courage, self-reliance and resource. He enlisted as a private in Company K, First New York, or Lincoln, cavalry, and was subsequently commissioned lieutenant and later captain. In 1863 he was made adjutant-general on the staff of General Hunter, and later served in a like capacity with Gen. W. H. Seward. At the close of a brilliant military career he returned to Rockford, where he embarked in the practice of his profession and also conducted two saw-mills and one flour-mill. He was not allowed, however, to long remain out of public affairs, for in the administration of General Grant in the presidential chair he was appointed United States Indian inspector and acted in that capacity for four years, previously having served in the state legislature, and during his second term was speaker pro tem of the house. He also held various other offices, being president of the Rockford school board and a member of the village council, and he was warden at the State Reformatory at Ionia, Mich., for eight years. In politics he was a stanch and unswerving Republican and a leader in his party for many years, representing his state as delegate-at-large in the Republican national convention of 1880. His death occurred April 14, 1911, after a career of unusual brilliance in the law and in public life. He had two children: Ella Rose, wife of Emery T. Ferguson, of Rockford, and Roy Milton. Roy M. Watkins attended the public schools of Ionia and Rockford and as a youth demonstrated that he had inherited his father's predilection and ability for the law. He pursued his studies in the law department of the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated with his degree in the class of 1899, and began practice with his father, with whom he continued to be associated until the elder man's death, in 1911. Since that time he has been engaged in a general practice at Grand Rapids, at the present time having offices at 813-15 Michigan Trust building. Mr. Watkins is generally acknowledged to be one of the prominent members of the Grand Rapids bar and his clientele is large and important, while his record shows many legal victories in the state and federal courts. He was state examiner of inheritance taxes of the auditor's department at Lansing for four years; was register of the Probate Court of Kent county for four years and three months, and at this time, under appointment of President Wilson, is a member of the local draft board, Division No. 3. He is a valued member of the Grand Rapids Bar Association and the Michigan State Bar Association and his reputation in the profession is one that has been gained by a strict interpretation of the rules governing professional ethics. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the Masons, and he has reached the Consistory in that order, in addition to which he belongs to the

Hosted by Google

Shrine, the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of the Maccabees, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Order of the Eastern Star. He likewise belongs to the Grand View Automobile club, and is past captain of the Sons of Veterans. For a number of years Mr. Watkins has been one of the leaders of his party in the state and city, and at this time is president of the State League of Republican clubs. In 1913 he was law clerk of the State Senate, and in 1914 was elected a member of the Michigan legislature, being known as one of the aggressive and working members of that body during his term. In the last three Republican national conventions he has been an officer, and in the 1916 convention served as assistant secretary. Mr. Watkins was married Aug. 24, 1909, to Lucretia Rudolph Shipp, daughter of Zelotes and Flora (Kibbey) Shipp, of Grand Rapids. Mr. and Mrs. Watkins have a foster son, Donald Shipp. Zelotes Shipp, father of Mrs. Watkins, was formerly in the railway mail service in Michigan, but is now engaged in farming in Monterey township, Allegan county. Mrs. Shipp died July 17, 1911.

William J. Watterson.—No occupation known to man furnishes more interesting possibilities to the true lover of nature than the nursery business. Modern developments along this line have been as wonderful as they were formerly unexpected and unbelievable. Yet even to the man who labors faithfully to maintain standards already established and who has no time to explore in luring paths of promise, there is always that satisfaction in accomplishment possible only when one works in collaboration with the elements of creation. Kent county has had its share of patient, painstaking nurserymen, men who have delighted in their labor and contributed liberally to the well-being of the community. Few, however, have had a longer or more prosperous career than William J. Watterson, of Cascade, one of the best-known men in this line of business in his part of the state. Mr. Watterson was born July 21, 1851, in Ohio, son of John and Harriet (Webster) Watterson. His father, a native of the Isle of Man, came to the United States soon after reaching the age of twenty-one years and first settled in Ohio, where he was married and followed his trade of miller. Late in 1851, not long after the birth of his son, William J., John Watterson came to Michigan and bought Indian land in Cascade township, Kent county, his first purchase being forty acres, to which he subsequently added eighty acres additional. While principally engaged in farming after coming to Michigan, he also followed other pursuits and was at various times connected with the Cascade Mills in a number of capacities. During the last three years of his life he lived in retirement, having accumulated a competency that enabled him to pass his declining years in the enjoyment of the rewards that come to the industrious. While not conspicuous in public life, he was one of his community's reliable and dependable citizens and one trusted and respected by his fellow-men. He and Mrs. Watterson were members of the English Presbyterian church. They were the parents of the following children: William J.; Robert H., deceased; Ellen, who died in 1883; Ann L., widow of Frank Smith, and who resides in the State of Washington; Rosette, who died unmarried; George, who died in 1863; Charles, deceased; and Mary, wife of M. H. Smith and who resides in Washington. The education of

Hosted by Google

William J. Watterson was attained in the district school in Cascade township, but was completed when he was twelve years of age, at which time he began to be self-supporting. From childhood he had evidenced a love for and sympathy with all manner of growing things, and as he grew older this feeling became intensified. When he left school he became connected with the Grand River Nursery, at Lowell, where he remained for ten years, and at the end of that time he formed a partnership with Charles Butterick which continued in existence for thirty-one years, the business being the growing and handling of nursery stock on a wholesale basis. He was also associated with his sons in the Michigan State Nursery, a separate concern, and as the years passed became one of the best-known men in this field in the state. When Mr. Butterick died, Mr. Watterson did not care to continue the business, so he bought his old partner's interest from the estate and closed out the concern. In addition to being a prominent nurseryman, Mr. Watterson is also well and favorably known as an auctioneer and handles large sales. In the affairs of his community he has taken an active part and is now supervisor of Cascade township, in which office he served from 1898 to 1903 and from 1910 to the present time. Politically, he is a Democrat, and his religious connection is with the Church of Christ, which he attends at Cascade. His nursery is situated in section 9, Cascade township, where he has commodious buildings and modern equipment and appliances. His gardening business includes all the vegetables in popular demand and he derives a large income from his beautiful and seasonable flowers, as well as the products of his berry culture. His vegetables, flowers and fruits reach the remote corners of the county, and his name has become associated with all that is best in garden provisioning and floriculture. Mr. Watterson was married Jan. 14, 1874, to Minnie A., daughter of John A. and Isabelle Smith, and they have had eight children: John G., of Grand Rapids; Clyde G., who is the proprietor of a store at Cascade and has four children—Leona, Minor, Philip and Lyle; Lettie L., Dessie D., and Lottie L., who all died young; Henry; William A., residing at home; and Harold E., a student in the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor.

William A. Watts.—The individual who founds and develops an immense business enterprise must necessarily possess qualities and qualifications of an unusual nature. Combined with the mental strength to plan, must be the ability to execute and the foresight to grasp opportunities which conditions produce. Of the men of Grand Rapids who have possessed these attributes and who have as a result come prominently before the public as leaders of large ventures in the business and financial world, one of the best known is William A. Watts, president of the Preferred Life Insurance Company of America, an institution which has had a remarkable, almost phenomenal growth since its inception, in 1910. Mr. Watts was born at Gallipolis, the county seat of Gallia county, Ohio, Dec. 28, 1867, son of David and Eliza (Cherrington) Watts. He was given the opportunity to gain a good education in his youth and made the most of his chance, and when he graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University was prepared to take up the serious business activities of life. From the first, even as a young man, he was attracted by the insurance business, and for several years followed that line as a solicitor for some

Hosted by Google

of the large life companies. In 1892 he went to Richland, Mich., where his foresight had shown that there was a good opening for a live and energetic man, and organized the Union Bank of Richland, of which he continued as cashier until 1897. He then removed his center of activities to the city of Lowell, Mich., where he was instrumental in the reorganization of the City State Bank and took up his duties of cashier of that institution, in which he had a large interest as a stockholder. During all this time, however, Mr. Watts had kept the insurance business in mind and continually worked toward the perfection of a well-laid plan. This had its consummation in 1910, when, with other capable and substantial business men, he organized the Preferred Life Insurance Company of America, of which he was at that time secretary and general manager. Since January, 1915, he has been president of this company, and it is largely through his efforts and fine business abilities that the institution has rapidly grown to a point where it has taken rank with the leading companies of the Middle West. Mr. Watts has in the fullest extent the confidence of his associates. His conception of business honor and obligations is high, and his success in life, which has been remarkable, has not come through questionable methods of conduct, but through his ability to handle vast undertakings and control extensive interests. Mr. Watts belongs to the Westminster Presbyterian church and is a director of the Young Men's Christian Association. He is an active member of the Association of Commerce, belongs to the various Masonic bodies and holds membership in the Peninsular and Highlands Country clubs. He was married June 2, 1890, to Ella M., daughter of Henry Zimmerman, of Columbus, Ohio, and they have a daughter, Lucile, wife of Russell A. Norton, of Grand Rapids. The Preferred Life Insurance Company of America was organized in November, 1909, by William A. Watts and others, and incorporated for $100,000, beginning business in February, 1910. At that time its officers were: James R. Wylie, president; E. Golden Filey, first vice-president; Claude Hamilton, second vice-president; William H. Gay, third vice-president, and William A. Watts, secretary and general manager. At the election of January, 1915, when Mr. Watts was advanced to the presidency, R. S. Wilson assumed the secretarial duties and Clay H. Hollister is the incumbent of the office of treasurer. The great growth and progress of this institution may be noted by a comparison of the following figures: In 1910 the reserve was $7,244,- the assets $129,444.32, and the insurance in force, $1,206,249; in 1916 the reserve was $503,463, the assets $631,797.72, and the insurance in force $9,283,934. The paid policy holders in 1916 were: Death claims, $52,391.59; surrender values, $7,277.67, and dividends to policy holders, $9,363.94, a total of $69,033.20. The company at this time is doing business in Ohio, Michigan and Minnesota. The seventh annual statement of this concern, for the year ending Dec. 31, 1916, shows the following figures: Assets: Mortgage loans, $503,- 113.09; bonds, $4,250; policy loans, $40,046.50; premium notes, $4,001.06; agents' balances, $2,429.73; cash in office and in banks, $32,856.13; deferred and uncollected net premiums, $26,591; furniture and fixtures, $5,402.24; and accrued interest, $13,107.97. Liabilities: Net reserve, $503,463; income installments, $3,955; all other

Hosted by Google

liabilities, $765.88; losses unpaid, none; surplus apportioned and unapportioned, $23,613.84; capital stock, $100,000.

Wallace C. Weaver.—Long ago the pioneers of Kent county completed their work, having laid the foundations and made ready for the inevitable rush of civilization and the adequate development of resources. Their descendants have reared noble structures upon these foundations that are the embodiment of the Twentieth century spirit of progress. Gone are the days of small accomplishments. The strenuous life of the centers of industrial endeavor has reached every branch of human progress, and the farming districts are keeping pace with the advancement elsewhere. Byron township has always been proud to number among its most prosperous citizens those who, descended from pioneers, developed the surrounding country until increasing years led them to seek relaxation and comfort away from the activities of life. As this has been true in the past, so it is today, and one of the men who, after having been for years one of the able agriculturists of Byron township, is now living in retirement, is Wallace C. Weaver. Mr. Weaver was born on his father's farm in Byron township, Kent county, Michigan, May 24, 1852, son of Bradley C. and Sallie N. (Butler) Weaver. Bradley C. Weaver was born in Connecticut and was a small boy when taken by his parents to the State of New York. He was still a young man when, in 1847, he came to Michigan and bought eighty acres of green timber land in Byron township. Later he added to his holdings by the purchase of forty acres more, and through industry managed to develop a productive and valuable farm, to the cultivation of which he devoted his entire life, dying, greatly respected, at the age of sixty-one years. He was a Democrat, but not an office seeker, although always accounted a good and public-spirited citizen. He and his wife were the parents of three children: Mary C., deceased; Ella, who died when five years of age, and Wallace C. Wallace C. Weaver attended the district schools of Byron township and was reared on the home farm, receiving an excellent training in all departments of agricultural work. For several years after he attained his majority he was identified in his operations with his father, but eventually purchased eighty acres in Dorr county. This farm he sold after his father's death and returned to the homestead, where, through good management, he added considerably to the home acreage, although this purchase he later sold, at the time of his retirement, reserving only the original farm as owned by his father. Mr. Weaver, during his active years, was correctly adjudged one of the progressive, capable and highly successful operators of his locality. He had excellent ideas and knew how to make use of them, and as a result prospered exceedingly in his affairs. With advancing years he transferred the burden of every-day toil to younger shoulders and is now living in honored retirement in the midst of fellow-citizens who hold him in high esteem, not alone for what he has accomplished but for the manly and straightforward manner in which his transactions were always carried out. At various times during his long and useful career Mr. Weaver has been the choice of his fellow-citizens for offices of responsibility and trust, in all of which he has acquitted himself admirably, evidencing an earnest and conscientious desire to be of use to his community and discharging his duties in a highly capable and

Hosted by Google

commendable manner. For a number of years he acted as highway commissioner, and on several occasions has been a member of the board of supervisors, a position which he is holding at this time. He votes the Democratic ticket. Fraternally, Mr. Weaver is connected with the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Weaver was married Feb. 17, 1876, to Miss Lizzie Cline, who died Jan. 27, 1908, a daughter of John Cline. Four children were born of this union: Lester D.; Jerome, who has two children—Howard and Sheldon; Frederick, who also has two children—Doris and Donald, and Clarence, deceased. Mr. Weaver was again married, Jan. 6, 1910, to Miss Mary Sutherland, who died without issue, in December, 1916.

D. Emmett Welsh, M. D.—The exacting conditions of Twentieth century progress have resulted in specialization in every line of human activity. Men of conspicuous ability have proved that the best and most productive results are secured by a single-hearted devotion to some particular line. It has been their contention that with so many competitions it is impossible for any one man to become an expert in all lines, and that therefore those who specialize in a given direction are more reasonably sure of attaining perfection than those who distribute their activities over a wide territory. In the broad field of medical service, one who has won success by following this plan, is D. Emmett Welsh, M. D., one of the foremost specialists in the treatment of diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat in the State of Michigan. For thirty-three years he has been engaged in practice at Grand Rapids and during this time has not only become known as one of the leading exponents of his profession, but has been the recipient of numerous honors of a public nature. Dr. Welsh was born, Jan. 22, 1858, at Columbia, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and received his elementary education in the public schools of his native place. For four years he was under the preceptorship of Dr. Craig, surgeon for the Pennsylvania railway, following which he entered Jefferson Medical College, in which he was graduated in 1878. During the six years that followed he was engaged in practice at Latrobe, Westmoreland county, and included in his duties while there those of mine physician for the Loyal Hanna Coke and Coal Company, the Saxman's Mines and the H. Clay Frick & Company Coal Company, work which gave him experience of the broadest and most valuable character. Next, Dr. Welsh went to Philadelphia, in which city he took a special course of study and was appointed assistant at the University of Pennsylvania, for the treatment of nose and throat diseases, under Prof. Carl Seiler, this being an outdoor treatment. He was also assistant to Prof. John B. Roberts in surgery at the Philadelphia Polyclinic, and was resident physician at Will's Eye and Ear Hospital, in the same city. Subsequently, to further prepare himself, he attended lectures in London, England, and Paris, France, as well as lectures by Dr. Berry, the noted specialist, at Edinburgh, Scotland, and today holds certificates entitling him to advanced privileges in his particular line of practice. Returning to the United States, July 6, 1885, Dr. Welsh settled at Grand Rapids, where he has since met with continued and ever-increasing success. On various occasions, as before noted, he has been honored by his profession and in other ways. In the year following his arrival at Grand Rapids, he was appointed by President Cleveland as expert pension

Hosted by Google



E. Emmett Rice, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

examiner for Western Michigan, a post which he still holds. He is ex-president of the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine, ex-vice-president of the State Medical Society and ex-secretary of the National Association of Railway Surgeons; was one of the organizers of the Kent County Medical Society, of which he was president for one term; and in 1912 was president of the Michigan State Medical Society, subsequently being a member of its council for three years and now serving in the capacity of treasurer. He is a member of the state and county societies, the American Medical Association, the Mississippi Valley Medical Society, the National Association of Rhinology, the Pennsylvania State Medical Society (honorary), the Western Laryngological Society, the Detroit Opthalmological Society, the Detroit Otolaryangical Society, and he is president of the Michigan Trilogical Society and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. His system of examination in sight and hearing, devised by himself, so neared perfection that it was adopted years ago by many of the railroad companies of both this country and Canada and is very generally in use in many localities. He was also for many years the examiner for color blindness and other visual defects, as well as disorders of the ear, for the G. R. & I., C. & W. M., G. R. & W., and other railroad companies, the consolidated street railways of Grand Rapids and the police and fire departments. He served as a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Health for three terms, being president one term. Fraternally, he is a thirty-second degree Mason, and life member of the A. A. O. N. M. S., and belongs to the Royal Arcanum, and he is a life member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Dr. Welsh was married Jan. 20, 1898, at Grand Rapids, to Miss Grace Vivian Diver, who was born in this city. They have one child, D. Emmitt, Jr.

Aaron Verne Wenger, M. D.—Than that of medicine there is no vocation to which men devote their lives more dignified in its ethics or more reasonably helpful to the world. Similar claims are made by the church and by the law, but, while essentially true enough, are based on other foundations. The healing art demands of its real devotees that natural reverence for the dignity of the human body that commands the exercise of all the skill that years of study and training have brought to them, to cure its ills. Its scientific discoveries have not only eased the bed of former torture, but have found the cure for almost every bodily affliction. Justly is this noble profession in the forefront. Methods may differ, systems may not be quite alike and personality counts for much, but the aim and principle remains the same. Among the members of the medical profession well known in Kent county is Dr. Aaron Verne Wenger, whose skill and faithfulness, together with his determined hopefulness and cheerfulness, have made his presence valued in many households during the past sixteen years, which period has covered his career as one of the leading physicians of Grand Rapids. Dr. Wenger was born at Caledonia, Kent county, Michigan, March 5, 1877, a son of Christian and Lavina (Nogle) Wenger. His father, a native of Pennsylvania, came to Michigan in young manhood and settled in Kent county, where, in the vicinity of Caledonia, he carried on successful agricultural operations during the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the village named. He was an industrious farmer, making the most of

Hosted by Google

his opportunities and attaining thereby a modest competence, and in his locality was considered a good citizen, honorable and straightforward. Mrs. Wenger, who was born in Ohio and taken by her parents to Michigan in young womanhood, still survives her husband and resides at Caledonia. After securing his primary education in the public schools of his native place, Aaron V. Wenger was sent to the South Grand Rapids High School and completed the course. From his boyhood he had been resolved to follow medicine as a vocation, and after he had made some further preparation he entered the Grand Rapids Medical College and was graduated in that excellent institution with the class of 1901, receiving the degree of Doctor of Medicine. His first practical experience was secured while he was serving for nine years as an interne in a local hospital, following which he embarked in a practice that has continued to grow steadily in size and importance. Dr. Wenger has always practiced alone, and at the present time maintains offices in the Metz building, where he has every modern appliance of the profession and a large and comprehensive medical library. While he is equally at home in the various departments of his profession, at present he is specializing to some extent in surgery and anaesthesia, subjects of which he has a deep and profound knowledge and in which he may lay claim to something beyond local distinction. He holds membership in the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and is a fellow of the American Association of Anaesthetists. In the civic affairs of Grand Rapids he has shown a commendable and public-spirited interest, and his name is frequently found upon the lists of men who are behind movements for the benefit of the city and its people. Dr. Wenger was united in marriage June 20, 1911, with Miss Fannie Roth, daughter of John C. and Anna (Bieri) Roth, of Lowell, Mich., and of this union there has been born a daughter, Ann Virginia.

Sybrant Wesselius.—During thirty-three years Sybrant Wesselius has pursued the practice of law at Grand Rapids, where he has been known not only for his skill and assiduity as an attorney, but also for the urbanity of his manners, literary taste, and as a helpful citizen concerned in the welfare of his community. He has gained professional eminence by none of the arts of the charlatan, but has sought rather to merit recognition by knowledge and industry than to gain notoriety by the more questionable methods by which less meritorious practitioners find a short cut to fame and fortune. Mr. Wesselius was born at Grand Rapids, June 8, 1859, son of Charles and Dinah (Napp) Wesselius. His father, a baker by vocation, came to the city in 1851, and during his later years followed landscape gardening. The public schools of Grand Rapids furnished Sybrant Wesselius with his preliminary educational training, and after some further preparation at Holland College he enrolled as a student at Kalamazoo College, in which institution he was graduated in 1883, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He then commenced the study of law in the office of Hughes, O'Brien & Smiley, and was admitted to the bar in 1885, since which time he has been engaged in a constantly increasing practice, in which he has attained a high reputation and much material prosperity. He has been a member of the firms of Wesselius & Maynard and Wesselius, Corbett & Ewing, but

Hosted by Google

at the present time is practicing alone and has offices in the Houseman building. He is a Republican in politics and was state senator in 1889-90 and railway commissioner from 1897 until 1899. Mr. Wesselius belongs to the various organizations of his profession and is well and favorably known in club life at Grand Rapids. On Sept. 30, 1885, he married Miss Effa Loella Bangs, of Hudson, Mich., and they have two children: Marie H., now Mrs. Ward Small, of Evanston, Ill., and Dorothy Belle. Fraternally he is connected with the Elks, K. of P., and Odd Fellows. Mr. Wesselius has made a specialty of law for the promotion of education and was the author and champion of the bill and constitutional amendment under which the railroads of the state paid an additional tax to the primary school fund of $400,000 annually, which has advanced Michigan schools to so high a place in the public school system of the country. He was also the author and champion of the law establishing day schools for deaf children, where they are taught by the real method, and have spread the work to other states, so collaborating with Alex Graham Bell in the national work.

Henry Wester.—Of the sons of Denmark who have come to the United States to assist in swelling the population of Kent county and of contributing to its progress and advancement, one who has well and honorably earned his position as a well-to-do agriculturist is Henry Wester, whose fine farm is located in Bowne township. Mr. Wester has resided in this country only a little over fourteen years, but in this period he has worked so industriously and has governed his operations so intelligently that he has succeeded in winning prosperity in a much shorter time than is necessary for most men. Mr. Wester was born in Denmark, July 10, 1888, and therefore belongs to the younger agricultural element. His parents were Anton and Signa Wester, the former a blacksmith, who followed his trade throughout his life and never came to the United States. After her husband's death, Mrs. Wester came to this country and now makes her home with her sons, who came here in 1904 and located on farms in Bowne township. There were ten sons and one daughter in the family, and of these five came to the New World to make their homes and fortunes. Henry Wester was educated in the public schools of his native land and was a youth of sixteen years when he accompanied his brothers to America. All had decided upon farming careers, and Kent county, Michigan, was chosen as the scene of their operations. For some time, while learning the customs, language and methods of this country, Henry Wester worked out as a hand, and in the meantime carefully conserved his means and thriftily saved his earnings. In this way he was able to accumulate sufficient capital to invest in an eighty-acre farm in Bowne township, and after he had put considerable improvements upon it and raised the quality of its soil and the capacity of its productiveness was able to dispose of it at a considerable advance. He next invested in his present property, a tract of 160 acres lying on section 18, Bowne township, and this he has developed into a profitable and attractive property, noted for its fertility and conspicuous because of its modern improvements and substantial buildings. Mr. Wester is a general farmer who is thoroughly familiar with every branch of his vocation, and to whom agriculture is a subject that merits constant study. He keeps fully abreast of the

Hosted by Google

latest things being done and is always ready to experiment with new methods and implements, provided that they seem practicable. In line with his general spirit of progressiveness he supports movements which promise to advance the interests of his township and his county. Mr. Wester was married in December, 1905, to Miss Ingeborg Gerginson, also a native of Denmark, who came to the United States in 1905, one year later than her future husband. Her parents still make their home in the old country, where Mrs. Wester has a brother in the army. Mr. and Mrs. Wester have been the parents of seven children, all of whom survive and all living at home: Sigma, Ella, Marie, Julius, Henry Jr., Harold and Rose. The family is affiliated with the Lutheran church, and in politics Mr. Wester is a Republican.

Richard A. Westrate.—Of Richard A. Westrate, yet in the early twenties, however guardedly one must speak on the score of youth, it may be stated unhesitatingly and beyond fear of question that few young business men of Grand Rapids today give nobler promise of future worthy achievement. He has been a resident of this city for only six years, and yet during that short period of time has attained to a position of prominence formerly held only by men a number of years his senior, and he is now handling capably the duties devolving upon the position of manager of the Michigan Exchange Branch of the Grand Rapids Savings Bank. Mr. Westrate is a product of the farming community of North Holland township, Ottawa county, Michigan, where he was born on his father's farm Sept. 2, 1893, son of Marinus J. and Christina (Nykamp) Westrate. His father, a native of the Netherlands, was brought to the United States when a lad of about ten years and was educated in the public schools near Holland, where he embarked upon his career as a farmer. Later he secured the ownership of a valuable property in North Holland township and cultivated this land for some years, but finally disposed of his interests in the country to turn his attention to commercial pursuits. He is one of the substantial men of his community, held in high esteem by his fellow-citizens and holding the confidence and respect of his associates. He and Mrs. Westrate, who was born near Zeeland, Mich., are members of the Reformed church. They are the parents of six children: Dena, wife of John Wabeke, of Holland; Henrietta, unmarried and resides with her parents; James, of Allegan, Mich.; Nellie, wife of Anthony Van Duine, of Holland; Richard A.; and Maurice, deceased. Richard A. Westrate was educated in the public schools of Holland and was well prepared for a business career, attending both the Holland Business College and McLachlan's Business College of Grand Rapids. His first business experience was gained with a private banking institution, the Michigan Exchange Private Bank, which he entered May 15, 1912, as bookkeeper and stenographer, and of which he was made assistant manager in 1915. When the bank was purchased by the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, in January, 1917, Mr. Westrate was made manager of the branch, which position he retains today, and in which, as has been noted, he is making a splendid record for efficiency and business progress. He is a Republican in politics, but has found no time to enter political affairs any deeper than to cast his vote for what he has felt have been good measures, but as a public-spirited citizen of his community he takes a keen interest in the welfare of his neighbor-

Hosted by Google

hood. He belongs to the Young Men's Christian Association, attends Grace Reformed church, and at the present time is serving as treasurer of the Sunday school. Mr. Westrate was married June 29, 1916, to Nella J., daughter of John and Henrietta Berg, of Grand Rapids.

Arthur S. White is a native of the state of Michigan, born at Ann Arbor, July 9, 1844. His father, Arthur G. White, was a banker in Detroit, and his mother was a daughter of John Munro, one of the builders of the Michigan Central railroad. Mr. White's youth was spent upon a farm and in attendance upon the public schools. At the age of thirteen he entered a printing establishment at Ann Arbor and later spent several years in printing houses in Chicago, St. Louis and Omaha. In the year 1868 he commenced employment as a newspaper reporter and editor, which continued twelve years, and in 1880 he established the Michigan Artisan, a trade newspaper, and conducted it successfully thirty-three years. In the year 1890 he was elected to represent Grand Rapids in the lower house of the state legislature and was re-elected in 1892. Mr. White is the president of the White Printing Company and the Michigan Engraving Company. His only son, Harry C. White, is a member of the Michigan state senate.

Rev. Francis S. White.—A man of high intellectual attainments, scholarship and religious zeal, Rev. Francis S. White is possessed also of much ability of a practical nature and has risen thereby to a position of leadership in the Protestant Episcopal church at Grand Rapids. The twelfth rector in line of succession of St. Mark's Cathedral, prior to coming to Grand Rapids he had for seven years been rector of Trinity Episcopal church, at Atchison, Kan., and brought with him a firmly established reputation for pastoral fervor and executive capacity. This reputation he has further strengthened since taking up his work among his present parishioners. Reverend Mr. White was born in the City of New York and as a child was taken to Buffalo, where his early education was acquired in the public schools. He subsequently attended Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., in which institution he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and three years later the Master's degree was conferred upon him by the same college. In 1896 he was graduated in the General Theological Seminary, New York City, with the degree of Bachelor of Divinity, and following that was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Coxe, of Buffalo. He was advanced to the priesthood in 1897, and began his work as curate in St. John's church, Detroit, under Dr. William Prall, but subsequently went to Omaha, Neb., to work in the associated mission founded by the Reverend Paul, now Bishop Matthews, under the late Bishop Worthington. He continued his active labors there with satisfying results until called to Trinity Episcopal church, Atchison, Kan., where, as noted, he remained seven years. This period of faithful endeavor was followed by the call to Grand Rapids to become rector of St. Mark's Cathedral, with the title "Dean." This is one of the largest and most important congregations in the state, with 342 families in the parish and over 1,000 baptized persons. The church edifice is a handsome and imposing one, valued at $65,000, while the parish house is a structure valued at $20,000, and other property owned is valued at $25,000, making an aggregate of $110,000. The rector's annual salary is $3,000. Dean White is an energetic and tireless worker in the affairs of his parish and acts not

Hosted by Google

only as the spiritual leader of his people, but frequently as their guide in business and financial matters. He has won in large degree the friendship and esteem of leading men of various creeds and has been called upon to act in several capacities necessitating a knowledge of civic affairs and of the needs of his community. Dean White was married in 1907 to Miss Caroline Mize, of Atchison, Kan., and they are the parents of two sons and a daughter. In October, 1917, Dean White resigned the rectorship of St. Mark's to continue in Army Y. M. C. A. work which he began with the Michigan troops in July at Grayling, subsequently following the troops to Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, and at this writing is still working there as camp chaplain for the war commission of the Episcopal church.

John Whitfield.—There was a period when the calling of the agriculturist was but indifferently considered by those who had successfully centered their activities in urban vocations. His hard work was not adequately appreciated, and because of the lack of proper transportation facilities and connecting factors, in many cases he could not market the products of his toil, nor could he command a fair price for them. At the present time, however, it is the man who tills the soil who provides not only for the prosperity of the country, but for the sustenance of the world. Vergennes township has many progressive men whose labors are now receiving due recognition, and among these is John Whitfield, whose fine farm of eighty acres is located in section 31. Mr. Whitfield was born at Grand Rapids, March 10, 1876, son of Docke and Gertie (Whitfield) Whitfield. His parents, natives of Holland, came to the United States not long after their marriage and settled first at Grand Rapids, where the father worked for several years, but in 1876 located in Vergennes township and purchased forty acres of land. To this he later added a like acreage and continued to follow farming until the time of his retirement. He was an industrious man of good business ability and was successful in the accumulation of a modest competence. In politics he was a Republican, although his only interest in public affairs was that of a good citizen and voter, and he and Mrs. Whitfield were members of the Christian Reformed church. They had six children: Mary, wife of Roger Vereseput, of Grand Rapids; Herman, a resident of Chicago; Jacob, deceased; Nell, wife of Bursel Huggins; Hattie, wife of Henry Meyer, of Vergennes; Jacob (2), a resident of Chicago; and John. John Whitfield received his education in the public schools and remained under the parental roof until he was twenty-four years of age, taking a great deal of interest in farm duties and learning the vocation in all its details. When he left the homestead he rented land for two years, at the end of which time he was able to purchase his present farm, a tract of eighty acres lying in section 31. His principal interest has been centered in general farming, his judgment in this line bringing substantial results, but farm dairy work and stock raising have also received a part of his attention and he is accounted as being skilled in the various branches of agriculture. A member of the local Grange, he keeps fully abreast of the advancements constantly being made and of the improvements which are coming to the aid of the farmers in their work, and his equipment includes the latest models of farming machinery and appurtenances. His buildings are substantial in their construction and

Hosted by Google

attractive in design, and, all in all, his farm is one that does credit to the thriving community in which it is located and to the progressiveness and able management of its owner. Mr. Whitfield is a Republican, but politics have had but a small place in his career, although his good citizenship has never been questioned, nor has his integrity in business matters. He was married Oct. 9, 1901, to Miss Florence May Frazier, and they have three children: Pauline Maria, George Allen and Dorothy May, all at home.

Fred Whittenbach.—The farming interests of Kent county include a number of representatives of Swiss birth, and this element has been found to be steadily reliable and markedly progressive, forming a very desirable branch of citizenship. In this connection mention is made of Fred Whittenbach, who came to this country as a poor lad of twenty years, and who through hard work and perseverance has become one of the prosperous and leading farmers of Grattan township, where he owns 320 acres in section 2. Mr. Whittenbach was born in Switzerland, May 8, 1869, son of Christ and Maggie (Rode) Whittenbach. His father, who was a farmer in Switzerland, of moderate means, spent his entire life in his native land and never left its boundaries, but his mother came in 1890, and both are now deceased. Their children were as follows: Christ, a resident of Lowell, Mich.; Frederick, of this notice; John; Rudolph; Maggie, wife of John Rode; Mary, who still resides in Switzerland; Anna, wife of Ford Wingire, and Eliza, wife of Alfred Blasser. The education of Fred Whittenbach was secured in the public schools of his native country and much of his boyhood was spent in hard work, as his services were needed to assist in the support of the family. Finally he decided that he was not making satisfactory progress, and, with a desire to better himself, gathered together what small capital he could command and emigrated to the United States in 1889. He was at that time twenty years of age and an ambitious, energetic and determined youth, and while his capital was small his energy and willingness were great, and at Lowell, where he first settled, he had little trouble in securing employment. As a farm hand, working by the month, he soon gained a knowledge of American customs, methods and the language, and after he had carefully conserved his earnings for several years became a renter of land. In this capacity he was successful, and eventually, wishing to become independent, he purchased land of his own, a tract of 240 acres lying in Grattan township. When he had cleared this property of its timber and brush, as well as its indebtedness, he bought eighty acres additional, and this land now forms his present farm, one that is a credit to himself and to the community. He carries on general farming, in which he has reaped prosperity by reason of his untiring and well-directed labors. A number of handsome improvements add to the value of his land, including his new home with its modern conveniences, built in 1915, while his barn has recently been remodeled. Mr. Whittenbach is a member of the local lodge of the Gleaners and is considered one of this section's well-informed agriculturists and a student of his vocation. He is a Republican politically, but not a seeker for public office, but a good citizen, withal, lending his support and encouragement to beneficial movements. With his family, he attends the Methodist Episcopal church at Lowell. In 1892 Mr. Whittenbach was

Hosted by Google

united in marriage with Miss Eliza Occh, of Alton, Mich., and of their union have been born eight children, all at home: Alfred, Ernest, Martha, Anna, Alice, Fannie, Leo and Walter.

Ralph H. Widdicomb.—It should be a matter of considerable local pride that so many of the substantial business men of Grand Rapids are native sons, stable men of commercial, social and civic importance, who have spent their entire lives here, and with the whole world outside offering various inducements, remain loyal and devoted to home interests. In this connection attention is called to Ralph H. Widdicomb, who is vice-president of the John Widdicomb Co. He was born Jan. 26, 1873. His parents were Harry and E. Maria (Hewitt) Widdicomb. The family name is still to be found in Exeter, England, from which place came the father of Ralph to the United States, in company with his father, George Widdicomb, in 1845. The mother of Mr. Widdicomb was born in the State of New York and was married there, and she and Mr. Widdicomb came to Grand Rapids about 1870. They had three children: Elsie, deceased; Ralph H., and Watts. After completing his public school course, Ralph H. Widdicomb went to work in the factory of the Widdicomb Furniture Company in 1892, to learn designing, for which he had native talent. The cultivation of this talent proved well worth while, for he demonstrated that he not only possessed fertility of ideas and a conception of what is appropriate and beautiful, but also the facility with his pencil that enabled him to bring his ideas to life. When the John Widdicomb Co. was organized he became chief designer and since John Widdicomb's death has filled the office of vice-president of the company, which is an important concern, its capitalization being $500,000. In his political affiliation Mr. Widdicomb is a Republican.

William Widdicomb.—In the retirement of William Widdicomb, in 1916, the furniture industry lost another of that generation of business men upon whose enterprise, industry and foresight so much of the material greatness of Grand Rapids was builded. He, with other men of his day, passed through the early and later period of the city's growth and helped to raise the metropolis of Kent county to its present position. Courage, faith and will belonged to the men of that generation and William Widdicomb shared those manly virtues fully. His reward came in success in a measure any man might hope for, and the respect of his fellow-men which all men covet. However, he has been much more than an able business man, for he has been likewise a public-spirited citizen and has deserved in the highest degree the great credit given him in the good opinion of the people of this part of the state. William Widdicomb was born at Exeter, County Devonshire, England, July 12, 1839, and was three years of age when brought to the United States by his parents, George and Elizabeth (Moore) Widdicomb. In December, 1842, the family located at Syracuse, N. Y., where the father worked at his trade of cabinet maker for several years, later moving to Elbridge, N. Y., where he owned a small factory. In 1856 he brought his family to Grand Rapids and eventually embarked upon the manufacture of furniture, a business in which he achieved marked success among the early men connected with that industry in this city. In 1881 he retired from active participation in business affairs, and his death oc-

Hosted by Google

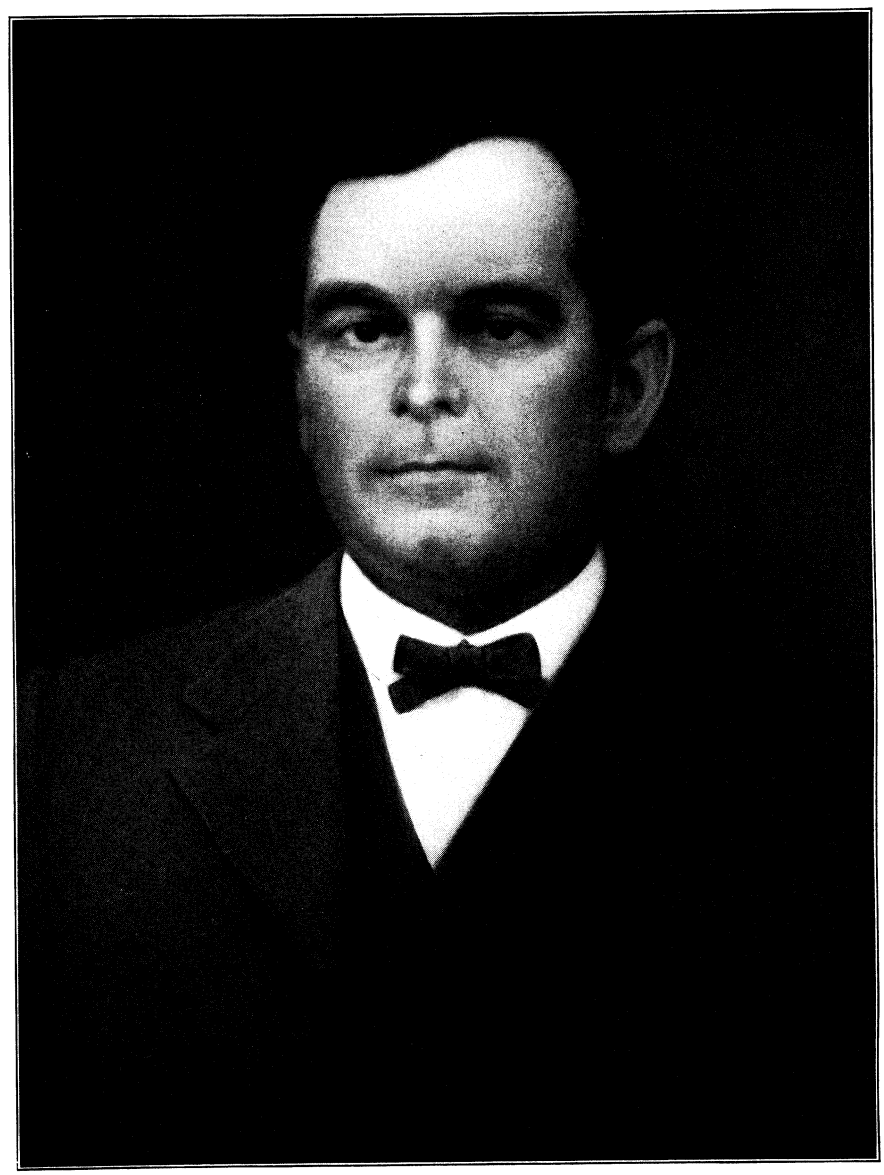
curred in 1892. To successfully carry on a business of large proportions in the face of the stern competition of the early days demanded tireless industry, keen judgment, great foresight and much natural ability, and all these were possessed by Mr. Widdicomb, who was also a representative of the city's best citizenship in other ways, ever interested in the community's progress, and generous in his gifts to benevolent causes. Mrs. Widdicomb, a woman of many sterling qualities of mind and heart, is also deceased. William Widdicomb secured his education in the public schools of Syracuse and Elbridge, N. Y., and as a youth of seventeen years came to Grand Rapids, where he first secured employment with E. W. & S. A. Winchester, by whom he was retained for two years. In 1858 he entered his father's furniture factory, as a workman, and commenced to learn the business from the ground up, but his advancement in this direction was temporarily halted by the outbreak of the Civil war, when, in answer to the President's call for volunteers, he enlisted, July 12, 1861, as a private in Company B, First Michigan infantry. With this organization he went to the front and within fourteen months had attained the rank of adjutant of his regiment, being the first member thereof to be commissioned from the ranks. Continuing to serve bravely and faithfully, he established an admirable record as a soldier, but after about two years of service was incapacitated by illness and forced to resign, being honorably discharged because of disability. Returning to Grand Rapids, Mr. Widdicomb, as soon as he had partly recovered from his illness, embarked, in 1864, upon a business venture of his own, founding a small furniture factory which proved the nucleus for his great later operations in this manufacturing field. His plant grew and prospered and necessitated from time to time the enlargement of quarters and equipment, until in 1886 the large structures known as the Widdicomb Furniture Company were erected. In 1916, having acquired advanced years and a modest estate, Mr. Widdicomb retired from business affairs. On July 13, 1872, he married Miss Sarah Esther Hewitt, of Oswego county, New York, and the children born of this union were Elizabeth, George, William, Margaret and Abbott. Of these, William is the only survivor. Mr. Widdicomb knows the hardships and struggles of his early days and what he had to overcome, and so appreciates what he has received more as a triumph over obstacles and difficulties than as the actual accumulation of wealth. Although many avoided the hard military service, he did not, and he has always felt glad that he answered his country's call in its time of need. While he has not sought preferment in public life, he has been of service to the city in various capacities where his business and executive ability and his keen insight into human nature have made that service of importance. He has always retained his interest in his old army comrades, and is a member of Custer Post of the Grand Army of the Republic and of the Loyal Legion of Michigan. Mr. Widdicomb's has been a busy life and it is to his high credit that he has looked to his city for no particular political honors, preferring to live in the hearts of his associates simply as one of their own, a private citizen, architect of his own fortunes. As an authority on the furniture industry Mr. Widdicomb has acted as advisory editor on the subject as included in this work.

Hosted by Google

Gustav William Wilbert.—During a period of nearly a quarter of a century, the late Gustav William Wilbert was identified with the business interests of Grand Rapids, and in that time he established a reputation for sterling honesty that made his name an honored one in business circles. He contributed to the upbuilding of the city of his adoption by the erection of several structures of a business and residential nature and at all times evidenced his faith in the future of the Furniture City in a practical and helpful manner. Mr. Wilbert was born in Germany, Feb. 3, 1861, son of William Wilbert. His father, who came to the United States with his family in 1868, located on a farm in Wisconsin and subsequently removed to a farm near Grand Haven, Michigan, where he lived for a number of years and then moved to the city of Grand Haven; and after a brief period in that city, he passed away. Gustav W. Wilbert was educated in the Lutheran parochial school at Grand Haven and as a youth learned the trade of millwright, which he followed until 1887, in that year coming to Grand Rapids to accept a position in a carriage factory. About the year 1892 he embarked in business for himself and continued successfully engaged therein until 1911, when he disposed of his interests and retired from active labor, continuing to live quietly until his death, June 15, 1915. Early in his career Mr. Wilbert was impressed by the opportunities presented by Grand Rapids real estate, and as he accumulated means invested them in various properties, showing rare judgment and foresight in his selection of locations and his knowledge of values. He built the business buildings on the corner of Straight and Butterworth streets, which proved a profitable investment, as well as the apartment at No. 202 Straight avenue, S. W., where his widow now resides. A man of attractive personality, Mr. Wilbert made many friends, and to these friendships he always remained faithful. He was of a social nature and enjoyed mingling with his fellows, and for many years was one of the most popular members of the local Arbeiter Society. He was first married, Aug. 25, 1887, to Miss Minnie Smith, of Grand Haven, Mich., and they had three children: Ernest, of Cadillac, Mich., and Viola and Vera, of Grand Rapids. Mrs. Wilbert died in November, 1906, and March 3, 1908, Mr. Wilbert married Mrs. Emma Scanlon, of Grand Rapids, who survives him.

Charles Edward Wilde.—It is not so many years ago, comparatively, since the telephone has come into universal use; nor is it a matter of any great length of time since the instrument was still considered to be in its experimental stage. The world now, of course, values it at its true worth, but the wonderful system which annihilates space and today makes possible the bringing together of interests instantly between far-separated points has been built up only after years of the hardest kind of work by men, the least part of whose labors lay in the overcoming of prejudice and the battering down of ignorance. Of the men of Grand Rapids who have been connected with the telephone industry during more than thirty years, one of the best known is Charles Edward Wilde, superintendent of the Michigan State Telephone Company. His entire career has been connected with matters pertaining to this industry and he has watched with the eye of a proprietor its development from small beginnings to the great present. Mr. Wilde was born on a farm in Kalamazoo

Hosted by Google



GUSTAVE W. WILBERT

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

county, Michigan, Dec. 25, 1869, son of Henry C. Wilde. He received a somewhat limited education in the public schools of Petoskey and was but little past his fourteenth year when he entered the office of the telephone company at that point, in the capacity of operator. Having quickly mastered the details of the office, and his superior being needed for service at a larger exchange, he was put in charge of the office as manager, in 1885, and in 1889 went to Battle Creek in a like capacity. In 1890 he was transferred to Alpena, and in 1892 he was appointed manager of the Muskegon office, remaining there for two years. He then went to Kalamazoo and accepted the position of superintendent of the southern division of the Michigan State Telephone Company, which he retained until 1902. From that office Mr. Wilde went to take charge of the Upper Peninsula division of the same company, at Marquette, but two years later left that city to come to Grand Rapids in his present position, that of superintendent of the Michigan State Telephone Company. Few men connected with the telephone industry are more conversant with its angles and its multitudinous details. He has been a close observer of every advancement made in the past thirty-three years, and his experience makes him invaluable to his company. His work has given him executive power, and as an employer of labor he is able to enforce the necessary strict discipline without causing resentment. His associates know him as a man of capacity on whom they may depend at all times. Mr. Wilde maintains an independent stand in regard to political matters and has never sought public favors on his own account from any party nor from his friends. He is a Mason and a member of the Peninsular club. Mr. Wilde was married Oct. 8, 1890, to Miss Emily A. Peet, daughter of D. A. Peet, of Anamosa, Iowa, and of this union have been born three daughters—Mabel L., Dorothy E. and May A.

Alden H. Williams, M. D.—Distinguished alike as a physician, surgeon and specialist, Dr. Alden H. Williams occupies a pre-eminent place among the professional men of Grand Rapids, where, since 1899, with the exception of a short interval, he has devoted himself to the accomplishment of achievements that have brought him wide reputation, universal recognition and honors of an enviable character. Like many other capable, successful and prominent men, he did not start out in life with the ambition to encompass something phenomenal, but at the outset of his career placed a just valuation upon industry and persevering application, and with these qualities, combined with natural ability and a love for his calling, has won for himself a notable place in the Michigan field of medicine and surgery. Dr. Williams was born at Montrose, Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, Nov. 28, 1877, a son of William W. and Carrie (Gunther) Williams, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of the Keystone State. The father served two terms in the Pennsylvania state legislature, and died in 1893, while Mrs. Williams still survives and is a resident of Grand Rapids. The Doctor's sister, Ethelberta, is a teacher of mathematics in the Grand Rapids High School. Alden H. Williams attended the Bloomsburg (Pa.) State Normal School and commenced his medical studies at the University of Michigan, in which he was graduated with his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1899. Following the securing of his diploma, he was for one and

Hosted by Google

one-half years interne in the U. B. Hospital at Grand Rapids and then entered upon a general practice, which he continued until 1907. The following year he spent in special study in Berlin, Germany, and upon his return to this country again took up his practice at Grand Rapids, where he has achieved a signal success in Roentgen Ray work, the discovery of which, in 1895, opened up to the world a new region of scientific exploration. He also holds clinics and engages in general diagnoses, and in each field has achieved something more than a local reputation. His ability as a physician and his general worth as a citizen have been recognized on numerous occasions, and he has been city bacteriologist of Grand Rapids since 1904 and county physician since 1907. Dr. Williams belongs to the Kent County Medical Society, the Michigan State Medical Society and the American Medical Association, and to the Western Roentgen Society. He has been head examiner for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company since 1907. He was married Nov. 23, 1909, to Miss Nellie Roller, daughter of Dr. Louis Roller, a well-known physician of Grand Rapids, and they are the parents of four children: Helen Louise, Louis Alden, Alice Amelia and Richard Roller. Dr. Williams and his family are members of the Fountain Street Baptist church.

Clarence A. Williams.—Among the business vocations in which mankind may engage, there is none which calls for a greater amount of tact than that of the undertaker. Aside from the training which is now necessary for the proper practice of the embalmer's art, the individual who would follow this occupation must needs possess particular qualities not needed in other lines of endeavor, for his relations with the people of his community are peculiar and he is associated with them in a most intimate connection. During a period of eighteen years Clarence A. Williams has been the proprietor of an undertaking establishment at Caledonia, and in this time, through his reverent care of those whom death has called, has won the confidence of many families which have been visited by the Dark Angel. Mr. Williams was born in Wayne county, New York, Jan. 10, 1858, son of Otis D. and Isabelle (Gordon) Williams, and a member of an old and honorable family which for many years had its home at Williamsburgh, L. I. Otis D. Williams, who was a mechanical engineer by profession in New York, brought his family to Kent county, in 1866, and for a number of years was employed by the firm of Conkle & Peck. Subsequently, for several years, he was engaged in the lumber business in the northern part of Michigan, but at the time of his retirement returned to Kent county and took up his residence at Grand Rapids, where the closing years of his life were passed. He was a Democrat in his political views and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a good citizen and a man who won the esteem of those associated with him by reason of his integrity and straightforward manner of carrying on his business transactions. Mr. and Mrs. Williams were the parents of three children: William G., deceased; Clarence A., and Jessie, widow of the late Jay Sexton, of Detroit. Clarence A. Williams received his education in the public schools of New York and Kent county and as a youth adopted the profession of his father, that of a mechanical engineer, at which he worked for several years. When the elder man embarked in the

Hosted by Google

lumber business he accompanied him in this venture, but in 1899 turned his attention to his present business, taking a complete course in embalming in one of the leading institutions teaching this art. In 1899 he opened his present establishment at Caledonia, where he has since remained. Mr. Williams has every appliance and appurtenance known to the modern profession for the proper and reverent handling of the dead, and has been a close student of his calling, familiarizing himself with every detail of embalming and undertaking. His tact and thoughtfulness, kindliness and ability in handling every situation, make him one to be depended upon in homes where sorrow and trouble have come, and many people of Caledonia have reason to thank him for the services he has rendered in their hour of grief. Mr. Williams is a Mason and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. A Democrat in politics, he has taken some active part in public affairs and has served very capably in the capacities of township clerk and township treasurer. In his long residence at Caledonia he has allied himself with other public-spirited citizens in furthering movements launched for the betterment of the community and its people's welfare. Mr. Williams was united in marriage June 11, 1884, with Miss Emily, daughter of Molyneaux and Eleanor (Latimer) Wilson. Mrs. Williams, who was born June 23, 1861, is a sister of Manuel Wilson, in whose sketch, on another page of this work, a review of the Wilson family will be found. Two children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Williams: Belle E., born April 10, 1885, wife of Ralph Sherk, of Caledonia; and Ruth, born March 19, 1895, a teacher at La Barge, was married Dec. 8, 1917, to Lieut. D'Arcy Wernette, now in France with the Thirty-second division, headquarters infantry.

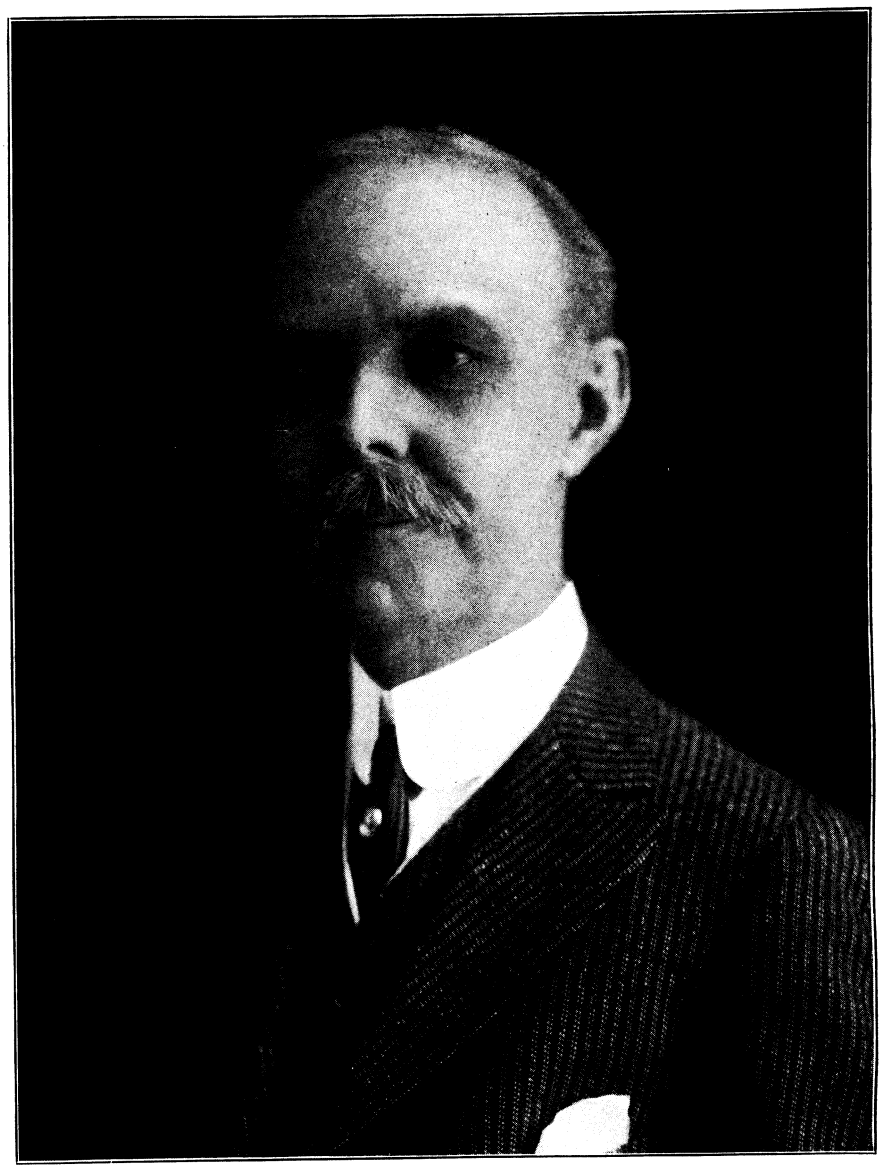
William M. Williams.—It would not be unreasonable to presuppose that the rising generations would profit by the lessons daily set for them to read in the records of the lives of men who have lived usefully and honorably, thereby discovering the difference between lasting and fleeting reputation. An individual cannot live unworthily and continue to be held in esteem after his death. During his lifetime he may be able to blind the general public, but when his personality is removed people judge correctly and he is accorded his true place in their estimation by the value of his deeds. Thus it is that when a community is united in sorrow over the death of one of its citizens, proof of a convincing nature is given as to his ability, integrity, blamelessness and high ideals, especially when his life work has been attended by tangible accomplishment. In the death of the late William M. Williams, Gaines township lost a citizen of general worth, who had long been known in agricultural circles as a successful operator. He is still remembered as a man of correct life, whose career was characterized by his fidelity to his engagements and a commendable spirit of loyalty to his community. Mr. Williams was born in the State of New York, May 15, 1851, son of Hiram and Margaret (Matice) Williams, the father having been born, reared and educated in the Empire State. In the East Hiram Williams was an energetic and hard-working farmer, but his ventures did not succeed in the measure that he desired, and in 1855 he turned his face to the West in quest of a locality where his labors would bring more satisfying results. Finally he chose Michigan as his scene of opera-

Hosted by Google

tions and settled in Gaines township, Kent county, where he purchased a tract of green land from the United States government and settled down to acquire success. His earnest and continuous labors resulted in the attainment of his ambition and he became one of the well-to-do men of his neighborhood, spending his declining years in the comfort that his career of industry had brought to him. William M. Williams was only four years of age when he was brought by his parents to the community of Gaines township, and here his education was obtained in the district schools. When he was given the opportunity to choose a career he had to make no second choice, but at once resolved upon farming, and in the pursuits of the soil his life was passed. He was married about the time that he attained his majority, but continued to reside on his father's farm and at the time of the elder man's death inherited sixty-six acres of land in section 5, Gaines township, which continued to be his home until the time of his demise. About five or six years before his death he became more or less of an invalid, but bore his sufferings patiently and finally passed quietly away, Aug. 8, 1914, being laid to rest at Pine Hill cemetery. He never aspired to be anything but a good farmer, but he was known as a man of quiet influence whose example as a man of integrity did much to assist others. Mr. Williams was married June 16, 1871, to Miss Letta A. Meach, daughter of David and Rebecca (Springer) Meach, and of this union were born the following children: Lula May, who married John Shook, of Grand Rapids; Wallace, deceased, who had one child, Violet; Leona, deceased; Effie, wife of Oscar Loew, of Cleveland, Ohio, who has a daughter, Doris; Lottie Belle, who married (first) Frank Hill and had one child, Ivan, and married (second) Rodney Sickler, of Silverwood, Mich., and has two children, Leo and Leona; Frederick, deceased; Rose, wife of Claude White, of Three Rivers, Mich.; Ruby Pearl, wife of Hugh Blair, of Grand Rapids; and Howard, who resides at home.

Lewis Theodore Wilmarth.—Diversified interests directed with dignified capability, coupled with a keen sense of duty either in war or peace, are characteristics which make not only for good citizenship but also for successful and progressive advancement. Grand Rapids affords any ambitious man an excellent field for his operations and in no line are there more openings than in the field of manufacturing. One of the typical men of Grand Rapids, connected with the industry, a man of high merit and recognized worth, is Lewis Theodore Wilmarth, president of the Wilmarth-Morman Company and connected with various other business enterprises, than whom there is no more public-spirited citizen, nor one who has played a more helpful and active part in civic and charitable movements. Mr. Wilmarth was born at Grand Rapids, June 14, 1859, son of Oscar R. and Ada (Brown) Wilmarth, the former a native of Victor, N. Y., and the mother of East Bloomfield, that state. The parents were married in the Empire State and came to Marshall, Mich., in 1850, via the Erie canal part of the way, the balance of the journey being made overland by horse and wagon. In 1857 they came to Grand Rapids with Mr. Wilmarth's father, who had been a merchant at Marshall, and shortly after his arrival in this city Oscar R. Wilmarth formed a partnership with L. E. Patton, under the style of Wilmarth & Patton, a general merchandise business being conducted at Monroe ave-

Hosted by Google



Lewis T. Wilmarth

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

nue and Pearl street, then known as "Grab Corners." The first home of the Wilmarths in Grand Rapids was the old Squire Henry residence, located where the Press building now stands, the Wilmarths boarding with the Henry family until they could get settled in a home of their own. There were three children: Lewis Theodore, Oscar B., manager of the Wilmarth Show Case Company, and Ada, wife of S. A. Morman. About the year 1878 the elder Wilmarth moved to Stanton, Mich., where he embarked in the shingle and lumber business and also dealt in real estate and insurance for five years. At the end of that time he returned to Grand Rapids and not long thereafter retired from active affairs and lived quietly until his death. Lewis T. Wilmarth attended the graded and high schools of Grand Rapids, graduating in the latter in 1877, following which he took a commercial course. Later he attended the Swensberg Commercial College at Grand Rapids, then one of the Bon-Ton schools of Northern Michigan. He has many distinct remembrances of early Grand Rapids, one of the most vivid of which pertains to the old stage-coach line running between Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, consisting of fifty miles of discomfort. He also remembers the erection of the old Methodist Episcopal church, the first in the downtown district of the city, of which his father was a member of the building committee. In 1878 Mr. Wilmarth accompanied his father to Stanton, Mich., where he was associated with him in business, and when the father returned to this city the son went to Big Rapids, where he took charge of the shingle and lumber business of Holbrook, Wilmarth & Company, in which he was financially interested. After several years of active business operations there he returned to Grand Rapids and continued in the lumber and shingle business until 1889, when he organized the Grand Rapids Cycle Company for the manufacture of bicycles. The sport of bicycling at that time became a veritable craze and the business grew phenomenally into formidable proportions until it was employing 250 men in its factory, but eventually it was merged with the American Bicycle Company. When he left that business Mr. Wilmarth and his associates bought a machinery business at Kalamazoo and moved it to Grand Rapids, organizing the Wilmarth-Morman Company, with Mr. Wilmarth as president and Mr. Morman as vice-president. Following a few years of direct active management of the business, Mr. Wilmarth retired from this concern, but almost immediately organized the Wilmarth-Morman Company, manufacturers of grinding machines, of which company he is still president, and which is now giving work to 200 employes. The products of this concern find a ready market both at home and abroad, with large plants holding war contracts. Mr. Wilmarth is vice-president of the Wilmarth Show Case Company, vice-president of the American Paper Box Company (now the American Boxboard Company), of which he was one of the organizers and original investors, the largest industrial plant in Grand Rapids, and a director and officer in several other corporations. In other walks of life besides those connected with business he is equally prominent. He is a member of the official board and a trustee of the First Methodist Episcopal church. Politically he is a Republican. He is the longest-serving director of the Young Men's Christian Association, of which he was formerly vice-president and during the past two years has been president, having been particularly

Hosted by Google

active in this organization since the entry of our country into the great war, as he has also in Red Cross work and in Liberty Loan drives. He was one of the founders of the Charity Organization Company, later the Social Welfare Society, and during the period that he served as president thereof was broadly instrumental in having the society purchase property at a summer resort where the poor women and children of the city were given a vacation each year. Subsequently, he was appointed by Governor Ferris as a member of the committee, and chairman of the same, to investigate and report on social conditions of the state, and with the help of various cities of 10,000 or more population introduced and secured the passage of the present Housing Law of Michigan, in addition to the Housing Ordinance of the city of Grand Rapids. Life has given much to Mr. Wilmarth, but he has fully earned the distinction and prosperity which are his. He has never been known to shirk a duty or to be other than thoughtful and considerate of those under his supervision. The enterprises with which he has been connected have all been sound, legitimate concerns, and all have profited by his association with their management. Mr. Wilmarth was married, Dec. 24, 1885, to Lavina B. Northrop, daughter of Nelson W. and Charlotte (Northrop) Northrop, natives of Connecticut.

Oscar B. Wilmarth.—Among the leading business citizens of Grand Rapids, one whose career is typical of that of some of the leading men of the Central West, and whose alert, progressive and resolute participation in large affairs has given him prominence and standing, is Oscar B. Wilmarth. It is to such men as Mr. Wilmarth that this part of the country owes its rapid and continued advancement and the development of its business enterprises—men who are always alert for opportunity and possessed of the courage to grasp it when it appears. He is now treasurer and general manager of the Wilmarth Show Case Company, which is one of the leading concerns of its kind in the country, with its plant and main offices at Grand Rapids and branches in a number of leading cities. Mr. Wilmarth was born at Grand Rapids, April 28, 1861, and belongs to a well-known family here, mention of whom will be found in the sketch of L. T. Wilmarth, elsewhere in this volume. He received his education in the public schools, and when still but a youth learned the telegrapher's trade, which he followed for five years as operator for the G. R. & I. and D. L. & N. railroads. From the work of a knight of the key Mr. Wilmarth entered business affairs, becoming connected with the Grand Rapids Felt Boot Company, where through industry and fidelity he worked his way to the positions of office manager and superintendent of the factory. In 1890 Mr. Wilmarth became identified with the Grand Rapids Hand Screw Company, which had been established in 1889 by the firm of Wheeler & DeLisle. The building of show cases started in 1895 and the present factory was erected in 1907, but it was not until 1910 that the name of Wilmarth Show Case Company was adopted. The business was originally incorporated, June 17, 1907, for $100,000, with W. C. Winchester, president; L. T. Wilmarth, vice-president, and O. B. Wilmarth, secretary and treasurer. The capital was increased Sept. 26, 1914, to $200,000, with the same officers remaining, and June 1, 1917, was again elevated, this time to $300,000. The same officers continue, except that O. B. Wil-

Hosted by Google

marth has relinquished the duties of secretary and taken up those of general manager, while Edmund Morris is now secretary and also performs the duties of sales manager. The product of the company consists of all manner of show cases and store fixtures and 280 people are employed in the modern model factory, where there are 140,000 square feet of floor space. The articles manufactured by this concern are known all over the country and the company maintains branches at Boston, New York City, Chicago, Minneapolis, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Des Moines, Salt Lake City and Helena. Among business men of Grand Rapids Mr. Wilmarth is widely known, particularly in manufacturing circles, where his personal characteristics and business record have combined to win for him an enviable position in general regard and esteem. He is a Republican, but no politician, and holds membership in a number of bodies at Grand Rapids, business and social, including the Association of Commerce, the Peninsular club, the Owashtanong club, the Grand View Automobile club, the Furniture club and the Young Men's Christian Association. With his family he belongs to the First Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Wilmarth was married Oct. 2, 1890, to Miss Carrie L. Coye, daughter of Albert Coye, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born four children: Lucile, who is the wife of C. Harley Bertsch, of Grand Rapids, and has three children—Marian, Ruth, and John; Harold C., of Grand Rapids, the father of a son, Harold C., Jr.; Albert L., a student at Culver Military Academy, and Donald G., residing with his parents.

Charles M. Wilson.—In all progressive communities there are some individuals who always seem to have time to attend to good works, whether of a private or public nature. The late Charles M. Wilson was pre-eminently one of that class, and, fortunately for the best interests of Grand Rapids, he did not stand alone. He belonged to the group of able lawyers whose civic interest has been equal to their professional enterprise, and who devoted a large share of their energies to the perfection of our government. A man of excellent abilities in the legal domain, of broad education and of attractive personality, he was also a prominent figure in the Democratic party, and was admirably fitted to be identified with the progressive guard of such a city as Grand Rapids. Born at Ionia, Mich., Oct. 10, 1858, Mr. Wilson was a son of Henry J. and Helen (Moseman) Wilson, natives of Livingston county, New York. The family came to Michigan, in 1845, settling at Ionia, where Henry J. Wilson engaged in business, became a successful general merchant, and subsequently entered the financial field and attained a position of prominence in banking circles. Of his children, four survive: Mrs. Lee M. Hutchins and William K. and Hugh E. Wilson, of Grand Rapids, and Gilbert W. Wilson, of Ionia. Charles M. Wilson resided at the place of his birth until after his graduation in high school, when he entered the literary department of the University of Michigan, being graduated with the class of 1880. He then took up his studies for his profession and was graduated with high honors in the law department, in 1882, immediately coming to Grand Rapids, where he commenced his long, active and honorable practice in the office of Champlin & More, the senior member of which firm was subsequently elevated to the state supreme bench. After several years of this association, Mr. Wilson became a partner of John E. More, under the firm name of

Hosted by Google

More & Wilson, this partnership existing from 1885 until 1900, when the law firm of Taggart, Denison & Wilson was formed, Mr. Wilson's associates being Edward Taggart and Arthur C. Denison. In 1910, when Mr. Taggart suffered a severe attack of illness and Mr. Denison was appointed judge of the United States District Court, the firm of Wilson & Wilson was formed by Charles M. Wilson and Hugh E. Wilson, Cyrus W. Rice being associated with them for one year. In 1913, Hugh E. Wilson left the active practice of law to become the secretary of the Grand Rapids Trust Company, and Mr. Wilson took as his partner Edgar H. Johnson, under the firm style of Wilson & Johnson. This association continued until the time of Mr. Wilson's death. In politics Mr. Wilson was a life-long Democrat, although he never accepted the party's free-silver doctrine. Although keenly interested in the success of his party he never sought office for himself and only allowed his name to be placed on the ballot at the earnest solicitation of his friends, and in this way he was twice nominated for the office of justice of the Supreme Court, making good runs on both occasions, and, although defeated, leading the state ticket in the election of 1916. During the thirty-five years of his practice at Grand Rapids he was busily engaged in some of the most important work a lawyer is called upon to do, yet he still found the time and had the desire to assist in the public service. During the administration of Mayor Sweet, he served on the Board of Public Works, and for some years previous to his demise he had been a member of the State Board of Bar Examiners, a position to which he was appointed by Governor Ferris. For many years a member of the American Bar Association, Governor Ferris also appointed him a member of the first World Court Congress, held in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1914. Broadly interested in education, Mr. Wilson was a member of the Board of Control of Alma College, and his religious labors were represented by his long service in the trusteeship and eldership of Westminster Presbyterian church. He also for a time served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Young Men's Christian Association, and was a trustee of the Young Women's Christian Association at the time of his death. In fraternal life, he was a member of York Lodge No. 410, Free and Accepted Masons, and of DeWitt Clinton Consistory, Scottish Rite. He was a charter member of the Colonial club, organized in 1882, and a member of the Kent Country and Peninsular clubs, being highly esteemed in every organization to which he belonged. Mr. Wilson was married, first on June 3, 1891, to Jane Wadsworth Dunning, of Auburn, N. Y. She bore him two children —Henry D. and Helen M. The mother died in 1897, and on Oct. 14, 1899, Mr. Wilson married Angeline Aspinwall, of Buffalo, N. Y. For a short time Mr. Wilson had been in ill health, and after consulting a Chicago specialist he returned to Grand Rapids, where he submitted to an operation in the Blodgett Memorial Hospital, for abdominal trouble. This operation was unsuccessful and he passed away June 20, 1917. The funeral services were held at the family home, 216 College avenue, S. E., and the honorary pall-bearers were the judges of the federal courts—Judge Loyal E. Knappen, Judge Arthur C. Denison, and Judge Clarence W. Sessions—and the remaining members of the Colonial club.

Hosted by Google

Manuel Wilson was born in Canada, April 18, 1858, son of Molyneaux and Eleanor (Latimer) Wilson, both of whom were born near Dublin, Ireland. The father was but seventeen years old when he came alone to America and located in Ottawa, Canada, and he was married there, his wife having come with her parents to the same place. After their marriage they located in Perth county, Canada, and there he followed farming for more than twenty years. When he came to Kent county he located at Wilson's Corners, in Caledonia township, and purchased some wild land which he developed into a productive farm and comfortable home, where he and his wife both died. They were members of the United Brethren church, and in politics he was a Republican. They were the parents of a large family of children: Jane, wife of N. L. Denison, of Caledonia; George, a farmer in Caledonia township; Mary Eleanor, widow of Vaseo M. Vincent, who died in 1902; Catherine, wife of W. H. Ford, a retired farmer in Caledonia; Mary Ann, widow of Charles Johnson and a resident of Middleville; Manuel; Emma, wife of Clarence A. Williams, who is given mention on a preceding page of this volume; Margaret, wife of Recard Miller, of Caledonia; Henry, who is farming the old homestead; and Abbie, wife of Addison Palmer, of Middleville. Manuel Wilson was educated in the public schools and began his independent career as a farmer in Caledonia township. A number of years ago he purchased the Caledonia elevator of George W. Davis, and in partnership with his sons handles all kinds of grain, and hay and straw, in addition to his farming interests. He was married Sept. 23, 1879, to Miss Helen Freeman, who was born in Gaines township, daughter of Morris and Amanda (Arnold) Freeman, natives of New York state. The father came to Gaines township as a young man and purchased some unimproved land which he cleared and developed into a home, where he and his wife resided the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of three children: Alice, deceased wife of E. B. Fisher, of Grand Rapids; Helen, wife of Mr. Wilson, and Florence, deceased wife of Frank Moore. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have four children: Clare, who is in business with his father, married Martha Jones and has two children—Clara and Eugene; Forrest, also in business with his father, married Iva Henderson and has two children—Helen and Morris; Alice, wife of Hugh Graybill, of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Margaret, who is the wife of Ray Nolan, of Lewistown, Mont., and has a daughter, Josephine.

Winegar Furniture Company.—In 1883 there was founded at Grand Rapids the business of the Winegar Furniture Company, a concern that had its capital largely in the ambition and faith of its founder. The records show that a moderately successful business was carried on during that and the several succeeding years, and from this modest start the enterprise rapidly developed, year by year, until it is now one of the best-known establishments of its kind in Michigan and one of the leaders in a city the reputation of which in the furniture industry has extended all over the world. It will be apparent to the merest layman that the personnel of this concern has been far above the ordinary in ability and resource. A number of changes have been made since the original formation of the business, but the guiding spirit, the man who brought it to the forefront in the face of the fierce competition that agitated Grand Rapids trade

Hosted by Google

circles during a number of years, who had the courage to grasp opportunities and the foresight to note them when they came, and who made the most of them with a clear, cool, active brain, was the late William Winegar. He has been succeeded by his sons—William S. and Frank B. Winegar—both business men of sterling ability who have continued to conduct the concern along the honorable lines that enabled their father to win success. William Winegar was born at Gaines, Orleans county, New York, Jan. 1, 1826, son of John and Susan (Perry) Winegar, who removed from the Empire State to Clarkson, Monroe county, Michigan, and in 1835 to Farmington, Oakland county, Michigan, where the father followed his vocation of wool carder and clothier during the remainder of his life. In 1840 William Winegar went to Detroit, where he worked his way through school, and in 1844 went to Rochester, N. Y., where he was variously employed and remained for five years. In 1849 he took up his residence at Elkhart, Ind., where he centered his business abilities in the sale of Yankee notions, but in 1851 he returned to Michigan and located at Grass Lake, where he followed merchandising and farming with some measure of success. The outbreak of the Civil war called him into his country's service, in 1862, when he enlisted in the Seventeenth Michigan infantry. Subsequently he became second lieutenant and first lieutenant and June 17, 1862, was commissioned captain and served with that rank until physical disability caused his resignation, in 1863. Returning to Grass Lake, he engaged in the real estate and lumber business and in the manufacture of screen doors until 1871, when he first took up his residence at Grand Rapids, which was destined to be the scene of his future success. Bringing machinery with him, he engaged in the planing mill business until 1871, when he disposed of his interests therein and again took up the real estate and lumber business as his field of activity. In 1883 he embarked in the manufacture of furniture, and from that time forward his history was the same as that of the company of which he was the head. Two years after starting to manufacture furniture, Mr. Winegar turned his attention to the retail sale of this article, and in 1887 formed a co-partnership with his son, Frank B. Winegar, another son, William S., being admitted to the firm in 1901. On Jan. 8, 1902, the business was incorporated as the Winegar Furniture Company, with a capital of $100,000, the officers being William Winegar, president; William S. Winegar, vice-president; and Frank B. Winegar, secretary and treasurer. The business had been originally located on old Canal street, but in 1887 it was removed to Division avenue and Cherry streets. In January, 1904, a reincorporation took place, with $125,000 capital, but the president and head of the concern died May 8, 1904, and the new officials—William S. Winegar, president; James M. Barnett, vice-president, and Frank B. Winegar, secretary and treasurer, who had been elected Jan. 10, 1905—agreed to advance the capital to $300,000, June 8, 1906, with a view of extending the scope of the business. In the election of Jan. 11, 1909, John Buys was made vice-president, and Dec. 20, 1916, when the capital was reduced to $200,000, W. E. Winegar became vice-president and general manager. The building of the concern was completed Sept. 10, 1887, and has since undergone a number of additions and improvements, now being as follows: Main build-

Hosted by Google

ing, five floors and basement, 80x90 feet; warehouse, five floors, 41x140 feet; and garage, two floors, 25x80 feet. The concern employs fifty-five people and has three salesmen on the road. While the forceful personality of William Winegar has passed away, the things which he accomplished will remain indefinitely, for his workmanship was perfect, his citizenship ideal. He was a faithful member of the Park Congregational church, was a Republican in politics, and belonged to Custer Post, Grand Army of the Republic; the Old Settlers' Society, the Loyal Legion, and the Owashtanong and Peninsular clubs. He was married in July, 1851, to Emma E. Smith, of Grass Lake, Jackson county, Michigan, and they had two children: Mary S., deceased, and William S., president of the Winegar Furntiure Company, who has two sons, Swift Wells and William Edward, the former of whom has a daughter, Edwina, and the latter a son and daughter—Alice Carlyn and William Carroll. Mrs. William Winegar died, Nov. 11, 1856, and Mr. Winegar was again married, March 23, 1859, to Mary Emma, daughter of Dr. David and Mary H. (Smith) Bingham, of Grass Lake. Of this union were born four children: Harriet, deceased; Frank B.; Alice Frances, widow of Edward Tinkham, of Grand Rapids, and Louis Howard, of this city. Frank B. Winegar, secretary and treasurer of the Winegar Furniture Company, and one of the leading men connected with the furniture trade at Grand Rapids, was born at Grass Lake, Jackson county, Michigan, May 8, 1861. He was educated in the Grass Lake public school and the Grand Rapids High School, and in 1885 entered the Winegar Furniture Company to learn the business. Admitted to partnership in 1887, he has continued to center his activities in this business, and for many years has held the positions of secretary and treasurer. He is one of the energetic and helpful citizens of Grand Rapids who have done much to further its growth and development, and is a member of the Association of Commerce and the Greater Grand Rapids Association. He belongs likewise to the Young Men's Christian Association and the Highlands Country and Grand Rapids Whist clubs, of which latter he is president, and is widely and favorably known in fraternal circles, being a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of the Elks, Eagles and Odd Fellows. His political support is given to the Republican party, and with Mrs. Winegar he belongs to the Congregational church. Mr. Winegar was married June 13, 1893, to Miss Aurilla Pearl, of Grand Rapids, and they have had six children: Frances, Mary, and an infant girl, who are deceased; Frederick Perry, who is a member of the United States Marine Corps; and Frank Bassett and Ruth Alice, who reside with their parents.

Fred Wingeier.—While the greater part of Kent county may be included in the agricultural belt, many of the finest farms are to be found in Bowne township, where the type of citizenship is high and unusually intelligent. Modern methods prevail, the farmers use the very best agricultural machinery, and the tillers of the soil are generally open-minded, yet practical, as to improved ways of carrying on their important industries. One of these well-informed agriculturists is Fred Wingeier, who also is extensively interested in grain elevators and creameries in this section. Mr. Wingeier was born in France, Oct. 6, 1864, son of Samuel and Catherine (Biterman) Wingeier. As a youth Samuel Wingeier learned cheese-making in Swit-

Hosted by Google

zerland, in the vicinity of his boyhood home, and subsequently went to France. From that country he emigrated with his family to the United States, locating first in Ohio and in 1879 coming to Kent county, Michigan, where he bought 167 acres of land. He was successful in his operations, and as an industrious and ambitious man added 140 acres to his original purchase, on which he carried on general farming and dairying, and also shipped milk and cheese to Detroit, Chicago and other important points. Both he and Mrs. Wingeier passed the remaining years of their lives in Vergennes township. He died in the faith of the Lutheran church and with the respect and esteem of his fellow-townspeople, and she is still living at the age of eighty years. Mr. Wingeier was a Democrat. There were eleven children in the family: Samuel, who follows the trade of carpenter at Alto; John, a farmer of Lowell township, Kent county; Frederick; Ferdinand, of Bowne township; Alexander, of Lowell township; Daniel, of Bowne township; Simon, of Vergennes; and one daughter and three sons who died in infancy. The educational training of Fred Wingeier was secured in the district schools of Bowne township, and until he was twenty-three years of age he assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm and its allied interests. When he left the parental roof he rented land for one year and then purchased 160 acres, to which he has since added two tracts of eighty and ninety-three acres, respectively. In addition to general farming, he does a large dairy business and is interested in elevators and creameries at Alto, Elmdale and Freeport, Mich. He has sold 240 acres of land to his son, Alexander. He bears an excellent reputation in business circles and as a citizen has contributed his share of work in behalf of the general welfare. He is a Democrat. Mr. Wingeier was married March 20, 1888, to Mary Ann, daughter of Andrew and Mary Ann (Lark) Blaser, natives of Berne county, Switzerland, who came to Kent county in August, 1884, and spent the rest of their lives in farming. Three children have been born to Mr. and Mrs. Wingeier: Alma Mary Ann, who is the wife of George Fingleton, of Barry county, Michigan, and has three children—George Fred, Glen Albert and Alice Marion; Alexander Ernest, who married, May 31, 1916, Edwina M. Quiggle, and farms the old home place of 240 acres which he has purchased of his father; and Freda Matilda, at home. The children have been given good educational advantages and reared to lives of industry and integrity.

William Winters.—For thirty years William Winters has resided on his present farm in Nelson township and has been prominently identified with this section's upbuilding and general development, particularly along agricultural lines. He is a man of superior business ability and sound judgment and has won that prosperity which is the merited reward of honorable effort. As a citizen he has been thoroughly interested always in whatever has tended to promote the welfare of the community in which he resides. Mr. Winters was born in Canada, June 15, 1855. His father, William Winters, was born in New York state, and as a young man went to Canada, in which country he was engaged in farming for some years. About the close of the Civil war he came to Michigan and took up 160 acres of government land in Isabella county, starting to clear it up for planting. He offered his services to the United States in the Civil war, but was

Hosted by Google

suddenly taken ill, was exempted from service, and died in 1865. Mr. Winters married Miss Susan Brown, also of Canada, and they became the parents of the following children: John W., who was during the greater part of his life a farmer and carpenter of Michigan, but eventually moved to Minnesota, where his death occurred; Byron, who was formerly a farmer of Michigan and is now engaged in the same occupation in Washington state; Hortense, wife of Deloss Spencer, a farmer and mail carrier of Langley, Wash.; Jennie, widow of Henry Bowen, deceased; Mrs. Emma Lewis, of Isabella county, Michigan; and William. William Winters was educated at Mount Pleasant, Mich., to which community he was taken by his parents as a lad, and after leaving school his first employment was found in the woods. Later he took up farming, the family vocation, and about 1887 settled near where he resides at present. His capital at the start was small and his first years were filled with hard, unremitting labor, with but apparently little progress made, but eventually his faithful work gained appreciable results and today his property is practically all cleared and under a high state of cultivation. He has a good set of farm buildings and improvements of a modern character, and his progressive methods have served to make him prosperous even in a community where competition is keen and where farming ability is not lacking. Mr. Winters married Miss Alice Gould, daughter of Simeon and Sarah (Rurey) Gould, farming people of Nelson township. There were five children in the Gould family: Caroline, who married David Walker, of Cedar Springs; Charles; Alice, wife of Mr. Winters; one who died unnamed; and Ada, who married Frank Durfy, a farmer of Nelson township. Mr. and Mrs. Winters have had the following children: Guy, deceased; Elnie, deceased; Vera, wife of Floyd Torbet, a farmer of Spencer township, this county, has one child, Wheeler, and John, who is unmarried and his father's assistant on the home farm. Mr. Winters, while a good citizen, has never aspired to public office. He is a Republican in political belief, and the family are members of the Baptist church.

John Henry Withey.—Of the early residents of Kent county who laid the foundations for stable government and right conditions and blazed the trail for future generations, one of the most worthy was John Henry Withey, who passed the greater part of his life in Cascade township. He was the proprietor of the first tavern at Ada, of which he was the owner at a time when log buildings were the rule; later he engaged in the general merchandise business; subsequently he turned his attention to farming, which he followed for many years, and finally he retired and lived quietly until his death, which occurred on his Cascade township farm. He is remembered as a man of sterling probity of character and as a citizen who won success with honor. John Henry Withey was born in the State of Vermont, Nov. 22, 1832, son of Solomon Lewis and Clementine (Granger) Withey. Solomon L. Withey was born at St. Albans, Vt., Aug. 31, 1787, and by his first marriage was the father of the following children: William H., born Feb. 28, 1809; Reuben L., March 21, 1811; Daniel A., Oct. 8, 1813; Orson, April 6, 1815; Julia Ann, Nov. 28, 1817; and Solomon, April 21, 1820. Mr. Withey married his second wife, Clementine Granger, also a native of Vermont, Nov. 5, 1826, and they became the parents of five children: Lucy Ann, born

Hosted by Google

June 27, 1827; John Henry; Harriet Louise, born Sept. 26, 1834; Adelaide, Sept. 17, 1836; and Francis A., Feb. 13, 1840. When he was four years of age John Henry Withey was brought by his parents to Michigan, and here his education was secured in the public schools of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. When his father died, he began supporting his mother, at the age of seventeen years, and after clerking for a time embarked in a general store business at Ada, in connection with which he bought wheat for Martin L. Sweet extensively. He was the owner of the first tavern, or inn, at Ada, a crude log structure which he conducted until 1856, at which time he purchased 160 acres of land in section 3, Cascade township, which is still owned by his widow. For the most part this land was heavily wooded, but Mr. Withey's labors were persevering and productive of results, and at the time of his retirement he had made this original purchase into one of the most desirable and valuable farms in the township. When he reached advanced years he retired from active pursuits and settled down to a life of peace and comfort, and it was thus that death found him, Sept. 4, 1909. At various times in his career, being interested in his community's welfare and desiring to do his share of civic duties, Mr. Withey consented to allow his name to be used as a candidate for office, and as a result served in various capacities, being supervisor of Ada for two terms, school director for a number of years, and supervisor of Cascade for a period. His only fraternal connection was with the Masons. Mr. Withey was married Sept. 18, 1855, to Laura Olivia Able, now deceased, and they had one son, Frank Howard, who resides on James avenue, Grand Rapids. Mr. Withey was again married, April 11, 1861, to Mary L. Duncan, daughter of Ebenezer and Sophrina (Fitch) Duncan, and they had six children: Hattie Clementine, deceased; Mary Belle, who is the wife of William Sexton and has one son, John W., now in Company G, Thirty-ninth infantry, United States army, in France; Charity, who is the widow of Edward Mallory, resides at Los Angeles, Cal., and has one daughter, Mary, who resides with her mother; Genevieve, who is the wife of Ralph Hain, of Los Angeles, and has two children—Nalita and Ruth Burle; Winifred, deceased; and Roy Duncan, residing at Los Angeles. Ebenezer Duncan, father of Mrs. Withey, was born in Chautauqua Valley, New York state, and came to Barry county, Michigan, in 1839. He had the first mill at Duncan's Lake, and later settled on a farm on Scoles Prairie. He went to California in 1849 and was there one and one-half years. He went back to New York state, where he met and married Sophrina Fitch, a native of Rochester. In 1854 they returned to Michigan and for three or four years resided at Alaska and then at Ada until 1864, Mr. Withey following his trade as a master mechanic. After leaving Ada they moved to a farm in Cascade township, where they carried on operations until 1879, and in that year went to the State of Oregon, there rounding out their lives. He died there and she died at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Withey. Mr. Duncan was eighty years of age at the time of his death and Mrs. Duncan lived to be eighty-seven. Mrs. Withey, who survives her husband, still lives on the home farm in Cascade township, a large and productive property with modern comforts and conveniences and a commodious residence. She is well known in the community in which she has spent so many years and

Hosted by Google

has been active in her support of charitable and religious movements.

LeRoy G. Withey.—The business of writing insurance has developed to enormous proportions, and not entirely through the realization of the people of the necessity for proper protection, but in a large degree because of the efforts of the men engaged in this line of endeavor, who are educating the masses to appreciate the benefits accruing from insurance. This field of business activity demands many characteristics of its devotees not necessary in other avenues of business. The successful insurance salesman must not only know his own vocation thoroughly, but must be a competent judge of human nature, be possessed in a marked degree of that faculty which enables him to speak logically and forcibly in presenting his case to his possible client, and to be able to place the insurance with a reliable company which will conserve the interests of the assured. Grand Rapids has long been the home of some of the most able insurance brokers of the Middle West, and one who has attained more than ordinary prestige in this line is LeRoy G. Withey, vice-president of the Grinnell-Row-Althouse Insurance Company. LeRoy G. Withey was born on a farm in Alpine township, Kent county, Michigan, Feb. 17, 1880, a son of Alexander H. and Celia (Watkins) Withey, natives respectively of the states of New York and Michigan. His father came to the West as a young man, taking up a farm in Alpine township, where he continued to be engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years, and, being a man of industry and possessed of splendid business ability, acquired a handsome and valuable property and is now living in comfortable retirement at Sparta, Mich. There were five children in the family, namely: LeRoy G.; Clarence A., of Cambridge, Mass.; Genevieve, who is the wife of Bruce B. Bort, of Chicago, Ill.; Celia, wife of Glenn Richardson, of North Haven, Mich.; and Minnie, wife of Harvey D. Young, of Byron township, Kent county. The eldest of his parents' children, LeRoy G. Withey was reared on the home farm in Alpine township and received his early education in the public schools of Sparta. Subsequently he attended the high school at Rockford, Mich., and McLachlan's Business University, at Grand Rapids, and his business career was started in the office of Brown & Sehler, at Grand Rapids, where he remained one and one-half years. He was then made assistant manager of the branch store of this concern, at Conklin, Mich., remaining until Jan. 1, 1900, when he became cashier in the city office of the Aetna Life Insurance Company. In June, 1904, he identified himself with Grinnell-Row-Althouse Insurance Company, of which concern he is now vice-president. Mr. Withey is well known in business circles of Grand Rapids, and particularly in connection with insurance matters. His company is connected with some of the leading insurance concerns of the country, has written some large policies at Grand Rapids and in the adjacent communities, and is known as a strictly reliable concern, which makes its clients' interests its own and maintains a high standard of business ethics. Mr. Withey belongs to the Association of Commerce, the Credit Men's Association and the Builders' & Traders' Exchange. In political matters he maintains an independent stand. His religious connection is with St. James Catholic church, and he belongs to the Knights of Columbus and holds membership in the Owashtanong and Plainfield Country clubs. For

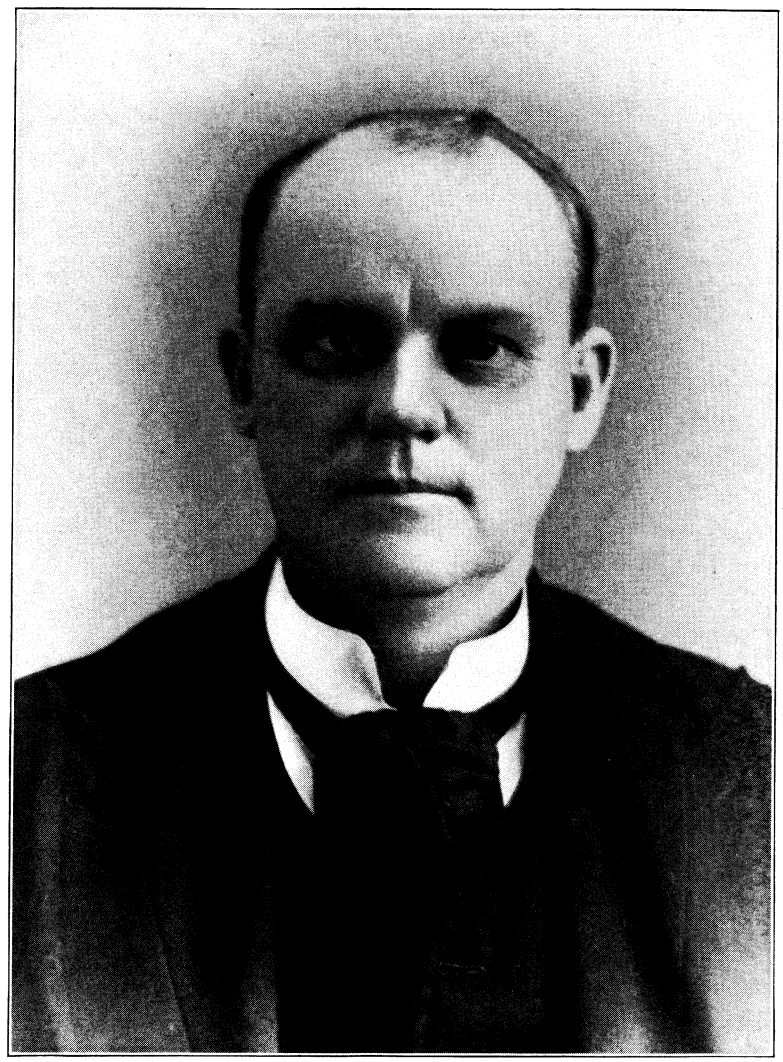
Hosted by Google

four years he served as a member of Grand Rapids Battalion of the Thirty-second regiment, Michigan National Guard, during which time he rose from private to the rank of second lieutenant. In May, 1917, he assisted in the organization of the Michigan state troops and was made captain of the Sixty-seventh company. Mr. Withey was married April 16, 1902, to Margaret A., daughter of James and Mary (Cudahy) McDermott, of Grand Rapids, and they have five children, namely: James A., Paul J., John W., LeRoy B. and Robert W.

DeRoy A. Wood.—Cascade township offers many examples of successful farming, and no one could overlook, in this connection, the many richly cultivated acres that belong to DeRoy A. Wood, whose fine farm and modern home are located on section 25. Mr. Wood has been a resident of Cascade township for fifty-four years, during which period he has been identified with the movements that have made for progress and development and a factor in making this locality noted as an agricultural center. He has been no less a good citizen than he has a good farmer, and in business circles his name stands for honorable transactions and straightforward dealing. Like many of his fellow-townsmen, DeRoy A. Wood was born in the State of New York, his natal date being Dec. 25, 1846, and his parents were Clinton A. and Louisa Markham Wood, who were born and reared in Livingston county, New York. Clinton A. Wood was engaged in farming ventures until his marriage, and then for a time applied his energies to the manufacture of pumps, but eventually returned to farming, which he followed in the East until 1863. Feeling that he was not making enough progress in New York, and having heard of the opportunities offered for success and advancement in Michigan, Mr. Wood in that year traded his home and residence lot for a farm in Cascade township, Kent county, where he arrived Dec. 4. This property was eighty acres in extent, of which all but five acres were in wood, in the clearing of which Mr. Wood found himself facing a proposition which he had never experienced up to that time. However, he was industrious and persevering and quickly learned the methods of the West, so that he rapidly put his land under cultivation and developed a fertile and productive farm from out of the wilderness. Also he rose to a position of prominence in his community, won the confidence and trust of his fellow-citizens, and served several times in the capacity of highway commissioner. He was a Republican in politics. Mr. and Mrs. Wood were the parents of six children: Frank A., deceased; DeRoy A.; William A. and Charlie, deceased; Jennie; and Daniel, who resides at Grand Rapids. DeRoy A. Wood was educated in the public schools of New York and was nearly seventeen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Cascade township, in the Civil war period. He assisted his father on the home farm for a time and worked on a threshing outfit five falls, following which he rented land for several years and threshed for twenty falls, and finally became a property owner, when he bought forty acres of land. This he subsequently sold and bought his present farm from the other heirs of his father, and he now has one of the best and most productive farms of eighty acres in the township. Mr. Wood is a general farmer and stock-raiser, and is thoroughly conversant with every form and department of farm work. His tract is well fenced and otherwise improved, his farming machinery is of

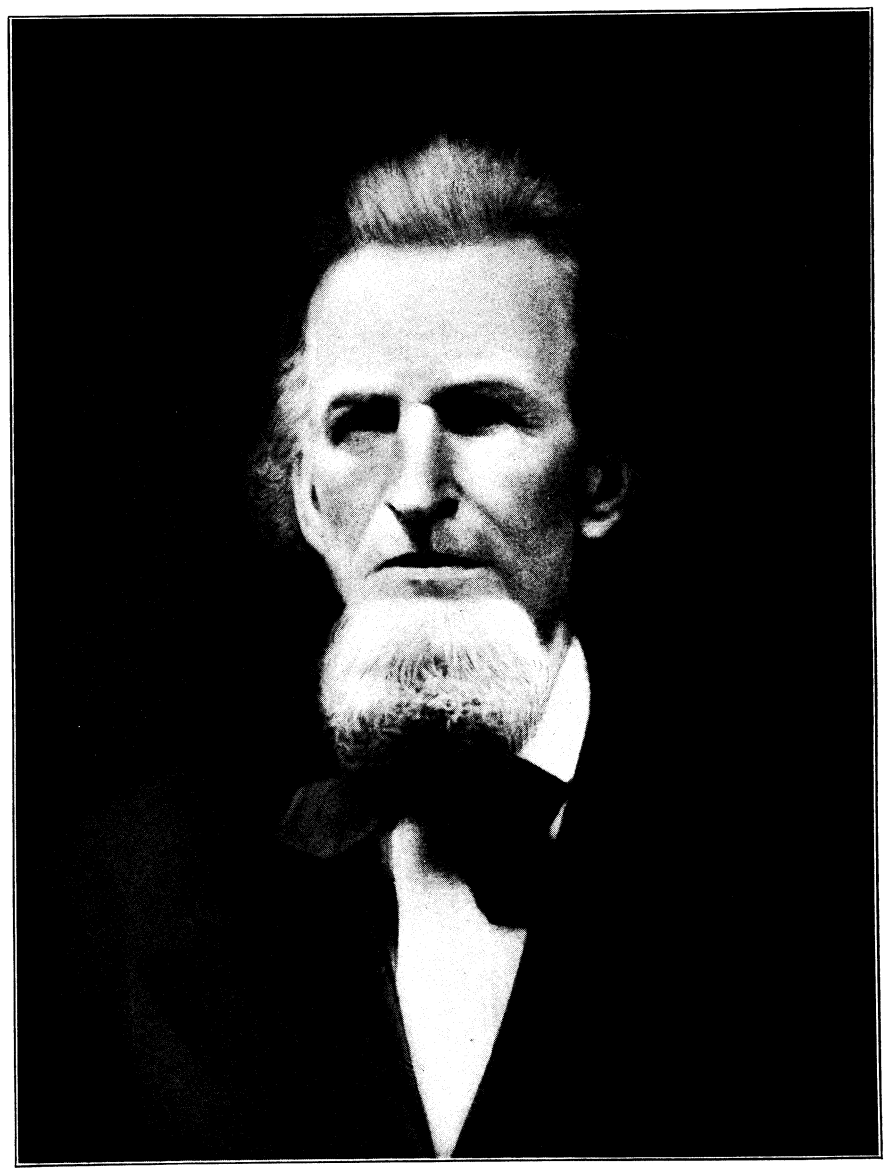
Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google



ADDISON M. WORKS

Hosted by Google



J. ALLEN GIDDINGS

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

the latest manufacture, and his buildings are numerous, substantial and commodious. Politically, he is a Republican, and formerly was fraternally identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. Mr. Wood was married Dec. 23, 1869, to Phoebe, daughter of Elisha Reynolds, who came from Allegheny county, New York, Mrs. Wood's birthplace, the spring following the arrival of the Wood family. To Mr. and Mrs. Wood have been born the following children: One who died in infancy; Jennie, deceased, who was the wife of M. Bowen and had a child, Leona, who married Robert Blackburn and had Donna, Norma and Robert E.; Clinton, who was the manager for his father of the home farm and is now a barber at Alto, married Mabel Shephard and has a son, Harold; Mernie, who is the wife of R. E. Hasking, of Saginaw, Mich., and has four children—Donald, Burrell, Marion and Maxim; Donna, deceased wife of Charles Tucker, of Chicago, Ill.; Arch E., who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Cascade township, married Grace Heisinger, and is the father of two children—Beulah and Charles; Nettie, who is the wife of Edward P. Chappell, of Alto, and has four children—Irene, Edward, Beverly and Granville A.; and Verl, who is the wife of Frederick Erdly, of Cascade, and has three children—Thomas, Ruth, and James Ernest.

Addison Milton Works.—While the career of the late Addison Milton Works belongs to the past rather than to the present, his death having occurred a quarter of a century ago, his name is entitled to mention among the representative men of Kent county because of his connection with its professional and business life for some years. Mr. Works was born in Switzerland county, Indiana, Jan. 24, 1847, son of Thomas Works. He secured his early education in the public schools of his native county, and after studying law and graduating in the Valparaiso University embarked upon the practice of his profession and also engaged in the insurance business. Mr. Works came to Kent county in 1889, in which year he opened a law and insurance office in the Michigan Trust Company building, and he continued to be prominently identified with these lines of endeavor until his death, which occurred June 4, 1893. While his residence in this city was a short one he was able to impress his ability and worth upon the community, and he is still remembered by many as a citizen of unblemished integrity and real public spirit. He was a Republican, politically, and a member of the Baptist church. Having fought as a soldier of the Union in the latter part of the Civil war, he held membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Mr. Works was first married Dec. 30, 1877, to Mary J. Dow, who died Jan. 24, 1883, having been the mother of two children: Fred, born July 15, 1880, and Marion, who died July 23, 1883. Mr. Works was again married, June 4, 1890, to Lottie E., daughter of J. Allen Giddings, and of Revolutionary ancestry. She was born at Sherman, Conn., where her father was a well-known business man, and was brought to Grand Rapids by her parents in 1859, here securing her education in the graded and high schools. Mr. Giddings became a prominent real estate man of the Furniture City and retired with a competency some years before his death. In 1859 he platted, organized and incorporated that portion of Oakland cemetery lying north of Hall street, and today this cemetery stands as a monument to Mr. Gidding. It is one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the state, and to be the father of so splendid a

Hosted by Google

work is indeed an honor. Mrs. Works, who survives her husband and resides at No. 705 Fulton avenue, E., is well known at Grand Rapids, where she has many friends, and she is a Daughter of the American Revolution.

Edmund W. Wurzburg was born in Grand Rapids, April 13, 1879, son of Frederick W. Wurzburg. He attended the public schools of his native city, was in school for a time in Buffalo, N. Y., and spent one year in a gymnasium in Germany, which corresponds to a high school in the United States. At the age of twenty years he entered the Wurzburg department store in Grand Rapids and there gained experience in mercantile business. He later spent two years in New York City, with the Textile Publishing Company, and then went to El Paso, Tex., where he had charge of a mercantile establishment for one year. At the end of that time he returned to Grand Rapids and again entered the Wurzburg store, becoming secretary and treasurer of the company when the business was reorganized. His father retired from active connection with the establishment about 1903, and Edmund W. is now vice-president of the incorporation. He is a member of the Peninsular, Kent Country, Highlands Country, and Owashtanong clubs, and also of the Association of Commerce. Mr. Wurzburg was married July 16, 1904, to Miss Marguerite, daughter of M. J. and Emily (Jewell) Clark, of Grand Rapids, and of this union have been born four children—Jane, Emily, Margaret, and Edmund, Jr.

Frederic A. Wurzburg.—Of the business establishments of Grand Rapids which have been developed and enlarged through the gaining of public confidence by straightforward methods of business procedure, an excellent example is the house of F. A. Wurzburg & Son. Founded in 1902 by the elder member of the firm, it has during sixteen years grown to important proportions and has greatly enlarged its scope and usefulness. Frederic A. Wurzburg has been connected with business affairs at Grand Rapids since young manhood and has been identified in a number of ways with commercial matters. He was born Nov. 27, 1865, in the city of New York, a son of Frederick W. Wurzburg, long a business man of Grand Rapids. The education of Frederic A. Wurzburg was secured in the public schools of the Furniture City, whence he was brought by his parents as a child, and at the age of sixteen years he began his business experience as a clerk in his father's store. There he continued until 1890, when he entered business on his own account, buying out the stock of the old firm of E. P. Kidder & Company. He began the manufacture and handling of ladies' and children's fur goods at old No. 64 Monroe street, and remained there until 1901, when he disposed of his holdings there, and in 1902 started operations at 120 Monroe street, at that time founding the present concern, known at that time as Frederic A. Wurzburg. This business was the handling at retail of linens, white goods and art needlework. They also engaged in the manufacture of Art Needlecraft novelties and ninety people are now employed in this department, with two traveling salesmen on the road. The products of this business have a market in all parts of the United States and the concern has a well-merited reputation in trade circles as a reliable and dependable house, operating under a policy of honorable dealing and straightforward transac-

Hosted by Google

tions. In 1915, when Donald B. Wurzburg was admitted as a member, the concern adopted the present style of F. A. Wurzburg & Son. Mr. Wurzburg, the elder, has had numerous other business connections. For nine years he was the proprietor of a summer resort at Ottawa Beach and during that time acted in the capacity of postmaster there, and for twelve years he was interested in the music business. He is possessed of much musical talent, was musical director at Powers Theatre for some years and is at the present time the director of the Lalakoum Grotto Masonic Band. Organizations which have a direct bearing upon the business life of the community have found in him an able and energetic co-worker. He is now a director in the Grand Rapids Savings Bank, also a director in the Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, and he is vice-president of the West Michigan Fair Association, as well as a member of the Rotary club. Fraternally he is a Thirty-second degree Mason and a Knight Templar, and he belongs likewise to the Knights of Pythias and the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks, and to the Owashtanong, Peninsular and Kent Country clubs. In a number of ways he has shown himself a progressive citizen, a sound and practical man of business and a useful member of society whose recognized abilities have been used in the furtherance of worth-while movements. Mr. Wurzburg was married Oct. 1, 1890, to Jane, daughter of Capt. C. E. Belknap, of Grand Rapids. Two children were born to this union: One died in infancy, and Donald B. received his preliminary education in the Grand Rapids High School and in 1915 graduated in the University of Michigan, and entered the firm in the fall of that year. He is accounted one of the energetic and progressive young business men of the city. When the United States entered the great war, in 1917, Donald B. enlisted in the United States Aviation Corps, and soon gained a commission as first lieutenant.

Joseph B. Yeiter.—Among the business houses of Kent county which have been in existence for many years and which, through the honorable policy followed by their proprietors, have attained success and reputation, one that is well known is the furniture and undertaking establishment of Yeiter & Company. Established at Lowell in the Spring of 1894, during the twenty-four years of its business life this house has maintained an enviable reputation in the city and its proprietors have at the same time demonstrated their worth to the community as citizens. Joseph B. Yeiter, senior member of the firm of Yeiter & Company, was born on a farm in Lowell township, Kent county, Michigan, July 18, 1855, son of John and Mary (Meck) Yeiter, natives of Wurttemburg, Germany. John Yeiter was four years old when brought to the United States and Mary Meck was a young woman of twenty years, and both families settled in Ohio, where the union of the parents took place. Later they removed to Lowell township and there passed the remaining years of their lives in agricultural pursuits, the mother dying in September, 1891, and the father in November, 1893. They were the parents of six children: Mrs. Elizabeth Smelker, of Freeport, Mich.; Mary Jane, also of that place; Joseph B.; Mrs. Lydia Gosch, of Lowell township; J. Wesley, who follows farming on the old home place; and Emma, who died in infancy. Joseph B. Yeiter received his education in the district schools

Hosted by Google

of Lowell township and the Grand Rapids High School, following his graduation in which he began farming at home. It was not his intention, however, to follow an agricultural career, and in the Fall of 1882 he came to Lowell, and, in partnership with D. W. Miller, started a drug store. They remained together for one year, at the end of which time Mr. Yeiter bought his partner's interest and continued to conduct the business alone until 1886, when he sold an interest to Dexter G. Look. In 1891 Mr. Yeiter retired from the business, selling his holdings therein to his partner, and in the Spring of 1894 re-entered business affairs as the proprietor of his present furniture and undertaking business. Two years later he sold a half interest to E. O. Wadsworth, and this association continued until 1913, when Mr. Yeiter bought his partner's share and took B. S. Shaw into the business. Mr. Shaw conducted a store at Alto and the two houses were conducted under the same management for one year. Mr. Shaw then withdrew and Mr. Yeiter took as his partner his cousin's son, Orlo J. Yeiter, and this connection still continues under the firm style of Yeiter & Company. This is now considered one of the sound and reliable business establishments of the city, dealing in high-grade furniture, of which the house carries a complete line. The undertaking department is complete in every respect and includes many modern features. Joseph B. Yeiter was married March 7, 1883, to Alida, daughter of Duncan and Phila A. (Stone) Campbell, the father a native of Scotland and the mother of New York. They were married in Michigan and started their married life on a farm in Bowne township, where they were residing when the Civil war came on. In 1862 Mr. Campbell enlisted in Company M, Sixth Michigan cavalry, and was killed in the bloody battle of the Wilderness and was buried on the field. In 1873 Mrs. Campbell married William Clark, of Cascade township, who died in 1890, Mrs. Clark surviving until April, 1915. By her first marriage she had two children: Alida, now Mrs. Yeiter, and Charles D., of McCords, Mich.; and by her second union she had a son, William H., who is a resident of Lowell township. Mr. and Mrs. Yeiter have two children: Lenna B., born April 14, 1884, wife of Dr. C. H. Anderson, a physician in Grand Rapids, and Lela Florence, born March 29, 1896, a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College at Lansing, Mich. Mr. Yeiter has taken a prominent part in community affairs for a long period, having been village treasurer two years and village assessor four years. He maintains an independent stand upon political questions. During the past twenty years he has been secretary of the Building & Loan Association, and his other interests are large. His fraternal affiliation is with Lowell Lodge No. 90, F. & A. M., and with his family he attends the Methodist Episcopal church.

Orlo J. Yeiter, junior member of the firm of Yeiter & Company, was born in Lowell township, May 9, 1890, a son of Samuel S. and Caroline (Reuter) Yeiter, natives of Michigan and agriculturists during the active period of their lives. The father died in January, 1916, but the mother still survives and makes her home at Lowell. There were five children in the family: Clair D., who married Mary Clark; Orlo J.; Claud S., who married Lillian Bloomer; Lena L.; and Harold G. Orlo J. Yeiter was educated in the public schools of

Hosted by Google

Lowell township and the high school at Freeport, and until nineteen years of age was engaged in farming on his father's property. At that time he was married and for some years thereafter was identified with a number of business enterprises, finally becoming associated with Joseph B. Yeiter, his father's cousin, in the operation of the present house. He is known as one of the energetic and enterprising young business men of the city and has already made a firmly established place for himself in commercial circles. He is an independent voter, affiliates with Lowell Camp No. 115, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is also a Mason, and belongs to the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1909 Mr. Yeiter was married to Miss Rosella, daughter of Earl and Mary Curtiss, formerly farming people of Lowell township and now retired residents of Lowell. Of this union has come a daughter, Evelyn L., born Feb. 26, 1912, and a son, Gerald S., born Jan. 2, 1918.

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Hosted by Google

Google